

STARS AND STRIPES®

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worker always
on the move**

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Volume 2, No. 128 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

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New fighting in Najaf as truce talks fail

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Unnerving upset

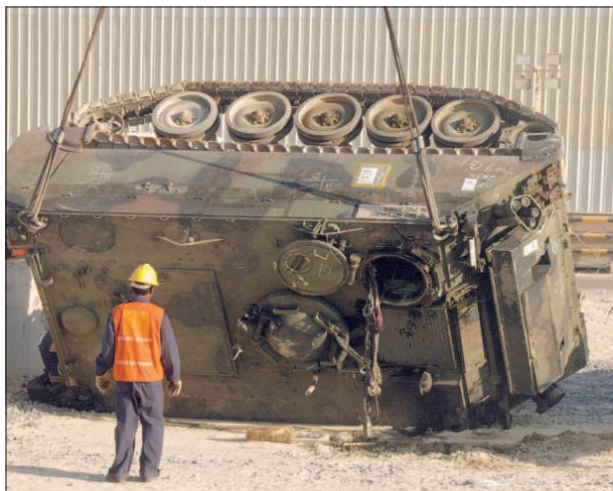
Puerto Rico hands U.S. men
basketball loss for the record books

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Allen Iverson,
left, and Tim
Duncan

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SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Contractors use a crane to right an M-113 armored personnel carrier that flipped at Shu'aiba Port, Kuwait, on Tuesday. A hole dug to free a soldier trapped inside is visible beneath the vehicle.

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Command
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Church sex-abuse scandal: Seventeen adults who abused the Philadelphia archdiocese for alleged child sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy waited too long to file suit, a judge ruled.

Judge Arnold New rejected claims that a cover-up by the archdiocese helped hide the abuse from the victims' families, preventing them from suing within the two-year time limit.

The alleged abuse dates from 1957 to 1983. Until 1984, child sexual assault victims had two years to file suit. A 2002 law extended that deadline to an alleged victim's 30th birthday, but the new law is not retroactive.

Utah wife death: Family and friends of Lori Hacking gathered Saturday in Orem, Utah, for a memorial service to remember the woman who authorities believe was slain by her husband while she slept.

About 600 people attended the service, including the parents of both Lori Hacking and her husband, Mark, who has been charged with her murder.

Jackson case: The Santa Barbara, Calif., sheriff has asked a judge's permission to release the results of a state probe into allegations that Michael Jackson was "manhandled" by authorities after his arrest for investigation of child molestation.

Sheriff Jim Anderson asked for a state investigation last year after Jackson claimed he was mistreated while in custody.

James memorial: Grammy Award-winning funk singer Rick James was laid to rest Saturday in his hometown of Buffalo, N.Y., where 6,000 people waited for hours to pay their final respects.

The line of mourners stretched more than two city blocks for the funeral service. Seventy gospel singers and a band performed a lively tribute.

James was to be cremated after the service, funeral director Vincent Amigone said.

An autopsy has failed to determine what caused the singer's death. Results of a toxicology test were pending. James, who suffered a stroke in 1998, was a diabetic and had a pacemaker.

Calif. wildfire: A wind-fueled wildfire roared through an old mining town in northern California on Sunday, destroying 20 homes and forcing nearly 125 residents to flee, officials said.

The blaze broke out Saturday afternoon and quickly grew to 2,500 acres, sweeping through the mountain community of French Gulch, said Linda Galvan, spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

World

Sudanese crisis: About 140 Rwandan soldiers arrived in Sudan's troubled Darfur region Sunday, becoming the first foreign armed force deployed in the Iraqized region since Arab militiamen began attacking black African farmers.

The Rwandan contingent was airlifted to Darfur to protect unarmed military observers monitoring a four-month ceasefire be-



Burundi massacre: Tutsi refugees from Congo who survived a massacre by Hutu extremists at the U.N.-run camp in Gatumba, Burundi, begin the grim task Sunday of identifying 150 bodies of relatives and friends who were shot, hacked and burned to death in ethnic violence reminiscent of the 1994 genocide in neighboring Rwanda. A Burundian Hutu rebel group claimed responsibility for the attack late Friday on the refugee camp in Gatumba, which sheltered Congolese Tutsis who had fled fighting in their troubled country.

tween Sudanese government forces and rebels.

Palestinian unrest: About 1,600 Palestinian prisoners began a hunger strike Sunday to protest conditions in Israeli jails, despite a warning by Israel's public security minister that they could "starve to death" before he agrees to ease restrictions.

An extended fast by this many inmates would be the biggest challenge to Israeli prison authorities since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in 2000. The remaining Palestinian prisoners and detainees — Israel holds a total of about 7,500 — are to join the hunger strike by the end of the week, organizers said.

The strike was organized by the main Palestinian factions — the Islamic militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and the Fatah movement of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The hunger strikers want more access to phones, a cessation of strip searches and family visits.

Israeli Public Security Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said over the weekend that Israel would not give in to the prisoners' demands.

Georgia cease-fire: Authorities in Georgia and its breakaway South Ossetia region accused each other of violating a cease-fire Sunday.

The claims of new exchanges of fire came hours after Georgian and South Ossetian officials pledged to observe a cease-fire reached Friday in a bid to ease mounting tension in the region in northern Georgia.

Detained professor: China has denied allegations that it mistreated a Chinese-born American college professor accused of spying before deporting him earlier this month, state media said Sunday.

Fei-Ling Wang, a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, was detained in China for two weeks on espionage charges and released Aug. 8, when he returned to the United States.

Wang, a naturalized American citizen, was arrested July 25.

Sri Lankan rebels: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have refused to discuss a government proposal on power-sharing, demanding that peace negotiations focus only on their plan for self-rule, a pro-rebel report said Sunday.

The Tigers presented a blueprint for self-rule called the Interim Self-Governing Authority, or ISGA, last October. It called for a largely independent territory with control over its own administration, police and legal system, unrestricted access to the sea, and the right to collect taxes and receive direct foreign aid.

U.N. presence in Kosovo: The new U.N. administrator for Kosovo was set to formally take control Sunday of a province that has remained deeply divided along ethnic lines since the end of a 1999 war.

Soren Jessen-Petersen, a Danish refugee expert and former European Union representative to Macedonia, was named to the post on June 16 by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He replaces Harri Holkeri, a former Finnish prime minister, who resigned because of ill health in May after serving for less than a year in the tense province.

War on terrorism

Diplomat hostage: Iran on Sunday rejected conditions set by a militant group holding a top Iranian diplomat hostage in Baghdad, saying Tehran was not holding Iraqi prisoners to exchange.

A militant group holding Iranian diplomat Faridoun Jihani has said it would release him if Iran frees 500 Iraqi prisoners it is holding, the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television station reported early Sunday.

But Vice President Mohammad Ali Abtahi told The Associated Press that there are no Iraqi prisoners in Iran nor Iranian prisoners in Iraq.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Messages of Support

★ Two little boys in Brooklyn NY sleep soundly tonight because YOU are keeping the monsters away. Thank you for making the world a safe place for kids to live in freedom. With love and prayers for your safe return home, Terie RN

★ Thank you for keeping our country safe from the tyranny of the world. Each day my friends and family pray for your safety, victory, and homecoming. We remember the price of freedom and the sacrifice that is needed to make sure that the

United States remains strong. If you begin to feel down or discouraged, please know that we love you and sincerely think of you and your safety constantly! God Bless America, Lori Jasper, Alabama

Curfie, explosions shake Najaf's center

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Explosions and gunfire shook the center of Najaf on Sunday as U.S. troops in armored vehicles and tanks rolled back into the holy city and new fighting broke out after truce talks collapsed.

The new U.S. offensive in Najaf cast a pall over Sunday's opening of the National Conference, a gathering of more than 1,000 delegates from across Iraq seen as a key step toward democracy in the country [See related story on Page 4].

Hours after the conference opened, insurgents fired a barrage of mortars that hit a commuter bus station in central Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 17 others, according to the Health Ministry.

The barrage apparently targeted the capital's Green Zone, the heavily protected neighborhood where the conference is taking place, but instead hit the station, which was left littered with glass, shrapnel and blood.

Also in Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier hours before the conference began. At least 931 U.S. servicemembers have died in Iraq since March 2003.

The National Conference aims to give a broader spectrum of Iraqis a voice in the political process and increase the legitimacy of the interim government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, which is dependent on American troops and money even after the end of the U.S. occupation.

But the failure to put an end to uprisings in the south by followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr — along with the continued Sunni-led insurgency elsewhere — threatens to undermine the conference.

Dozens of explosions from tank shells and mortars as well as constant small-arms fire shook Najaf's vast cemetery, where fighters from al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militias have been battling U.S. troops amid the tombs since the violence first broke out here Aug. 5.



A plume of smoke from an explosion is seen rising over the Najaf skyline Sunday near the Iraq holy city's vast cemetery. Negotiations to end the fighting in Najaf broke down Sunday, threatening to spark a resurgence of the fierce clashes between Shiite militants and a combined U.S.-Iraqi force that have plagued the city for more than a week.

U.S. troops who have been amassing at a nearby base rolled into the area around Najaf's Old City, the Mahdi Army's stronghold, in the morning hours. The new fighting ended the quiet that the city had seen since Friday as truce talks were under way.

An explosion, believed to be from a tank round, landed near the outer wall of the compound housing the revered Imam Ali Shrine, the militants' informal headquarters and Iraq's holiest Shiite site, said

al-Sadr aide Ahmed al-Shaibani. "The shrine was not hit," he said.

Three days of negotiations to end the standoff fell apart Saturday, when government negotiators called the talks fruitless.

Al-Sadr representatives said the sides had agreed on a cease-fire deal before Al-Sadr personally intervened to quash it.

On Saturday, about 10,000 demonstrators from as far away as Baghdad arrived in Najaf to show their solidarity with the militants and act as human shields to pro-

tect the city and the holy Imam Ali shrine, where the militants have taken refuge since the fighting started.

Before the renewed violence Sunday, Mahdi Army militiamen were seen patrolling the streets of Najaf's Old City.

During the negotiations, al-Sadr demanded a U.S. withdrawal from Najaf, the freeing of all Mahdi Army fighters in detention and amnesty for all the fighters in exchange for disarming his followers and pulling them out of the shrine and Najaf's old city, aides said.

But on Saturday, Iraq's National Security Adviser Mouwaffaq al-Rubeai announced the talks were over, saying, "After three days, my government thought there was no use in continuing."

However, Ota al-Khazali, al-Sadr's spokesman in Najaf, said a deal had been reached and al-Sadr — who was not in the talks himself — had signed it, when "we were surprised that they [the government negotiators] got instructions from Dr. Al-Sadr to leave."

The U.S. military estimates hundreds of insurgents have been killed since the clashes broke out, but the militants dispute the figure. Six Americans have been killed, along with about 20 Iraqi officers, the military said.

In other violence Sunday, a Ukrainian patrol commander, Capt. Yuriy Ivanov, was killed in a land mine explosion near Suwayrah, 25 miles south of Baghdad, said Lt. Col. Artur Domanski, a Polish military spokesman.

Also, a Dutch military policeman was killed and five others seriously wounded during violence Saturday in the southern city of Rumaythah, the Dutch Defense Ministry said Sunday.

In a separate incident in Rumaythah, al-Sadr militants fought with police in a battle that killed two people, including one policeman, said Dr. Mohammed al-Kharasani, a hospital official.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Aug. 13, 930 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 692 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of non-hostile causes. The Defense Department did not release new numbers on Sunday.

The British military has reported 63 deaths. Italy has reported 18 deaths; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 792 U.S. servicemembers have died — 583 as a result of hostile action and 209 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ None.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ None.

Iraqi government orders reporters to leave Najaf

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi police ordered all journalists to leave the holy city of Najaf on Sunday, just as a new U.S. offensive began against militants hiding out in a revered shrine there.

Four police cars surrounded a hotel in the city where journalists were staying and presented the order signed by Najaf's police chief, Brig. Ghalib al-Jazairi.

Though the order did not spell out a punishment for those who did not comply, the police who delivered it said any reporters remaining

would be arrested, according to journalists at the hotel.

The police said any cameras and cellular phones they saw would be confiscated. In response to the threat, many journalists left the city. The order would mean that the only news coverage of the ongoing violence in Najaf, one of the most revered cities to Shiite Muslims, would be provided by reporters embedded with the U.S. military.

The U.S. military had no immediate comment.

Freed British journalist says kidnappers beat him

The Associated Press

LONDON — A British journalist taken hostage in Iraq has described how his kidnappers beat him and put unloaded pistols to his head and pulled the trigger during his ordeal.

James Brandon, 23, was abducted from a hotel in Basra, southern Iraq, on Thursday by gunmen he assumed were supporters of the radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

He was freed on Friday, nursing a black eye, after al-Sadr apparently ordered his release.

Writing in The Sunday Telegraph newspaper, Brandon de-

scribed how he was pistol-whipped, blindfolded and driven around Basra, before being subjected to mock executions.

"All I could feel was the cold steel of the muzzle of one of my abductors' pistols being pressed to my temple.

"Then came a chilling silence ... broken only, seconds later, by the terrifying metallic click of the trigger being pulled," he wrote.

His captors filmed a video message threatening to kill him if U.S. troops did not stop fighting in the holy city of Najaf.

Brandon described how he managed to escape, after loosening

his blindfold and untying rope around his hands and feet.

But he was soon tracked down in a nearby building and recaptured.

The freelance journalist and Arabic speaker who has worked in Iraq for 10 months said the "unreasoning mob" of about 30 men accused him of being a CIA spy.

"Your brain works in mysterious ways," Brandon wrote. "I began planning to ask my kidnappers whether I could be shot rather than beheaded because it would be quicker, less messy death," added Brandon, who is recovering from his ordeal in Kuwait.



James Brandon

Security tight as Iraqis gather for conference

Delegates meeting in Baghdad will help elect 100-member national council

BY JAMIE TARABAY

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Under intense security, hundreds of delegates from across Iraq gathered Sunday in Baghdad at a three-day national conference intended to bring a taste of democratic debate to a country suffering from violence, chaos and the legacy of a brutal dictatorship.

"This conference is not the end of the road for us, it is the first step ... to open up horizons of dialogue," interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi told the delegates in an opening speech.

"Your blessed gathering here is a challenge to the forces of evil and tyranny that want to destroy this country."

Delegates had high expectations for this unprecedented gathering of religious, political and civic leaders, which will help elect a 100-member national council to act as a watchdog over the interim government ahead of elections scheduled for January.

"It's a great day in Iraq's history," said delegate Mithal al-Alusi, from the Iraqi National Congress party. "Holding this conference is an important step in creating a kind of supervision of the government, in accordance with the constitutional mandate."

But the conference was beset by problems even as it got started.

Right after the opening speeches, Nadim al-Jadari, an official with the Shiite Political Council, ran onto the platform and threatened to quit the conference unless negotiations were restarted to end fighting between Shiite militants and U.S. and Iraqi forces in the holy city of Najaf.

"The Iraqi government bears the responsibility for what is going on in Najaf. It has brought U.S. forces to hit our people in Najaf," said Falah Hassan, another official with the group. "Our demand is to halt the military operations in Najaf and other parts of Iraq. We will withdraw from the conference within 24 hours if our demands are not met."

A walkout by even a small fraction of the delegates would be a symbolic blow to the government as it tries to project a carefully crafted message of inclusion to Iraqis of different ethnic and religious groups.

Organizers worked quickly to assuage complaints among some of the resistant delegates by forming an additional working committee, tasked with finding a peaceful solution to the tension in Najaf.

At least 30 people were part of the committee, said delegate Saad Qindeel, from the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, the country's largest religious group.

"All kinds, all colors, Shiite and Sunni, they're all involved in this," he said.

Other committees formed Sunday were to produce papers on economics and human rights.

The conference had already been delayed for two weeks as provinces struggled to agree on delegates and U.N. officials worked unsuccessfully to persuade several key groups to participate.

Though the Najaf fighting between firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's supporters and U.S. and Iraqi forces has angered many of the nation's majority Shiites, some delegates said it did not change their plans to attend.

"We are against the killing of innocent people in Najaf, but we think that it is better to participate in the political process than not to, because we will have better means to express our views," said Mohammed Ali, a Shiite cleric.

Several key factions have decided to boycott, despite a public relations campaign that included full-page advertisements in local papers and posters plastered on walls throughout the city.

Al-Sadr's group has rejected the meeting as undemocratic and refused to attend.

"The Iraqi national conference will be stillborn," Ahmed al-Shaibani, an al-Sadr

aide, told pan-Arab television network Al-Jazeera on Saturday. "It will be imposed by force on the Iraqi people as was Ayad Allawi's government."

The Association of Muslim Scholars, a religious group with links to insurgents, also said it would not attend because of the interim government's reliance on the U.S.-led coalition.

Despite the boycotts, 70 different groups have agreed to participate, conference chair Fuad Masoum said.

"The movements that boycott this conference are free to do that, but that doesn't cause the conference to lose its legitimacy," he said Saturday.

The conference presented an obvious target for insurgents waging a nearly 16-month violent uprising here, and security was intense for the gathering being held in the Green Zone enclave, which houses Iraqi government buildings and the U.S. and British embassies.

Helicopters flew overhead. Five-meter-high concrete barriers blocked the entrance to the Green Zone. Bridges leading to the zone were barricaded with concrete and Iraqi police checked cars as they slowly moved by. Interior Minister Falah Hussein al-Najafi announced a daytime curfew for the city center during the conference.

Delegates themselves went through metal detectors and were frisked.

Quick shovel action saves 2nd ID soldier when M-113 flips

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

SHU'AIBA PORT, Kuwait — The young driver looked like a man back from the grave as he emerged, covered in oil, dirt and hydraulic fluid from a hole in the ground at the Kuwaiti port of Shu'aiba on Tuesday.

Moments earlier soldiers and port workers had dug a hole to free the driver, Pfc. Randy Freeman of Company B, 2nd Engineers, from his M-113 armored personnel carrier.

The vehicle flipped during operations to unload more than 1,800 2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Strikeforce) vehicles at the port.

Soldiers from 2nd ID's 2nd Engineers Battalion were loading the Strikeforce's temporary home at Camp Buehring when the accident happened.

The vehicle drove onto the truck without incident, said Sgt. Sean Dohner, of Company A, 2nd Engineers Battalion, who was driving a following vehicle.

Disaster struck after the M-113 stopped on the flatbed.

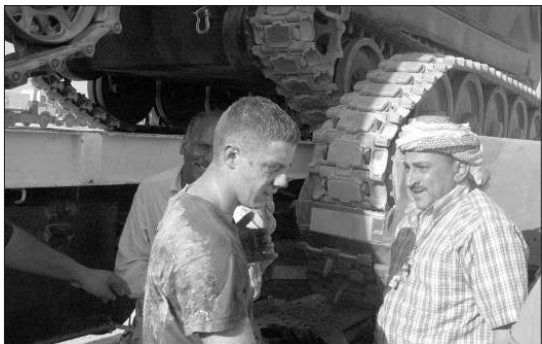
"You could see it [the flatbed] starting to slide and bend," Dohner said.

Another witness, Pfc. Tom Fisher, also of Company A, was standing on a truck to one side of the flatbed.

"Once he pulled it on you could hear metal bending. The right track slid off and in slow motion it just fell over," said Fisher, who immediately ran to the overturned vehicle.

The soldiers were worried that Freeman might have been injured or killed when the machine flipped. M-113 drivers poke their heads out of a hatch on top of the vehicles when they are driving and have to duck down and brace themselves to avoid injury in a rollover. A driver who fails to do this correctly during such an accident risks having his head pounded into the ground by a 25-ton hammer.

Fisher was concerned he approached the vehicle because Freeman was not calling for help.



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Randy Freeman of Company B, 2nd Engineers is covered in oil and dirt after being dug out of his M-113 armored personnel carrier after it flipped Tuesday at Shu'aiba Port, Kuwait.

"He wasn't making any sounds, and all of a sudden you just saw his head pop out," he said.

The problem was, equipment inside the vehicle piled up in the accident, blocking the rear exit hatch, and there was no way for Freeman to get out since his hatch now faced the ground.

"It was very, very scary. I just wanted to get out," Freeman said later.

The young soldier started to panic, fearing that the M-113 was about to become a giant oven and that he would be baked alive inside it, he said.

"I thought it was going to catch fire. It was very hot and I thought there was a gas leak or something. The engine was running. ...

My biggest fear was that I was going to be burned alive," he said.

Outside the vehicle, soldiers and port workers dug into the hard ground in the marshalling yard, tunneling under the stricken M-113 to reach the trapped driver. They poured water on the rock-hard ground to soften it so that shovels could chip away a hole large enough for a man to squirm out.

When the hole was big enough, Freeman wriggled out, gasping for air in the hot Middle Eastern sun. He looked like a man who had been rescued after being buried alive as he pulled off his grimy T-shirt.

"Once I realized I was out I was relieved. I never want to see than

happen again or be part of something like that again," he said.

The man who guided him up onto the truck, Pfc. John Shoup, of Company A, 2nd Engineers, took time out to collect himself.

"Any time a vehicle rolls over it sucks. It sucks, but it happens. Everything goes in slow motion," said Shoup, who has been in a rollover himself.

The safety officer, Staff Sgt. Vernon Wilson of the 385th Transportation Battalion, said the accident was the most dangerous event he had seen in several months working at Shu'aiba Port.

The Army is investigating the incident.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsonsp@stripes.osd.mil

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Jon Anderson, Jason Chudy and Seth Robson

Share your stories: Stars and Stripes is looking for offbeat stories, ideas and photos to run in its notebook section. To submit an idea or photograph, please e-mail it to news@mail.strips.osd.mil. Every submission must include the name of the person sending the e-mail and a phone number to verify the information. If including a photograph, please include the photographer's name, contact information, date the photo was taken and a short sentence describing what's in the photo.

Challenges of chow in the war zones

Unlikely fare

BAGHDAD — One of the International Zone's most popular eateries doesn't serve Army chow or Iraqi fare.

It serves Chinese food.

The restaurant specializes in spicy Sichuan dishes, the owner being from that south-central province.

"People ask why we came here," the restaurant's Chinese cashier said. "They say, 'It's so dangerous, why did you come here and make this business?'"

The reason was simple: There wasn't another Sichuan restaurant in Baghdad.

Between 150 and 200 soldiers and civilians move through the restaurant each day, grabbing orders of Chinese food or pizza.

"We don't have ... stuff like this where we are," said 1st Sgt. William Tager of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

Tager is based at Camp Buehring, a hunter and was eating at the restaurant for the first time.

"It breaks up the monotony of eating good ol' Army chow," he said, drawing agreement from his two table mates.

Fast food comes slow

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Af-



PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Storer, right, of the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment of the Washington state Army National Guard, finishes his Chinese lunch in Baghdad's International Zone. Behind him is 1st Sgt. William Tager of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

ghanistan — For months now, the blue Burger King trailer has sat vacant next to the field post exchange at Kandahar Airfield, its

much-anticipated grand opening nowhere in sight.

Instead, it just sits there, taunting the GIs like some desert mir-

rage — a mirage sporting a super-duper-size Whopper alongside a towering icy Coke and fries.

"It just tastes better," teases the sign.

At least one chow hall-weary prankster, however, decided if he couldn't have it his way, he could at least pretend.

Suddenly, fliers popped up throughout the airfield proclaiming BK's imminent opening, complete with S1 Whoppers. "Mmmmm..." the fliers read.

The brass wasn't happy and made sure the fliers were ripped down almost as quickly as they went up.

"The flyers which are being placed around KAF regarding the grand opening of Burger King are a farce and should be disregarded," wrote Capt. Bryan Klatt in a basewide e-mail. Clearly no fan of fast food frivolity, Klatt wanted names in the combat zone caper. "Any information revealing those individuals who are responsible for this blatant disregard for their fellow soldiers' morale, should be directed to base operations," wrote Klatt.

Not everyone saw the pranks in such dire terms, though.

"I thought it was hilarious," said one sergeant, "that someone would take the time to poke a little fun; it actually improved my morale."

Army and Air Force Exchange officials say they do not know when the Burger King will open.

Mineral water showers

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait —

Cleopatra bathed in milk — 2nd Infantry Division soldiers in Kuwait are bathing in pure mineral water from the Dibdiba Formation of northern Kuwait.

Mineral water showers were soldiers' solution to a broken pump on one of the shower units at Camp Buehring, where 2nd ID's 2nd Brigade Combat Team — the Strikeforce — is preparing to deploy to Iraq.

Soldiers, including Strikeforce commander Col. Gary S. Patton, washed off in the Rawdhalin natural mineral water that they normally drink.

The water comes from the Rawdhalin field north of Kuwait and is characterized by its purity and natural mineral properties, according to information on the bottles.

"... collected from rainfalls ... thru the ages, in the Dibdiba Formation," state the bottle labels.

A good mineral water shower requires two bottles. First, pour the contents of one bottle onto the body, then lather up with soap, and finally wash off with the other bottle.

The persistent sunlight and 120-degree heat at Camp Buehring ensure mineral water showers are as warm as regular showers are.

E-mail Jon Anderson in Kandahar, Afghanistan, at: andersonj@mail.strips.osd.mil; e-mail Seth Robson in Kuwait at: robsonse@mail.strips.osd.mil; and e-mail Jason Chudy in Iraq at: chudyj@mail.strips.osd.mil.



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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Homeland Newspaper



Petty Officer 1st Class Art Castillo takes a photograph of Petty Officer 2nd Class Curtis Sutherland, who leans out of the crossed-swords monument in Baghdad. The two, along with Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Miller and Petty Officer 3rd Class Oscar Reyesramos, spent a day in Baghdad's International Zone, touring the area's monuments.

Old Glory's absence angers some troops

Others approve of ban on flying flag, cite sensitivity to Iraqis' perceptions

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — Troops are everywhere on Camp Victory in Baghdad, and there's a post office, a Burger King and a large post exchange. Everything screams that the U.S. Army is in town.

Everything is there, that is, except for the U.S. flag flying from the base flagpole.

Despite the large presence of U.S. forces, military rules have prohibited the flying of Old Glory in Iraq since April 2003.

"No one may fly, display, post or place the U.S. flag in, on or over vehicles, command posts, captured equipment, structures, buildings, monuments or any other location in Iraq," wrote Coalition Press Information Center officials in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

The policy receives either understanding approval or harsh criticism from troops in Iraq, who nearly all have U.S. flags sewn on their shoulders as part of the

Army uniform form. "That's [expletive]," said Spc. Starlet Loftice of the 57th Signal Battalion when she read the regulation. "It's not like they (Iraqis) don't know we're here."

"Why wouldn't I be able to fly our flag?" asked Maj. Rob Cunniff of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, in Kuwait preparing to head into Iraq. "We are American soldiers. We wear the flag on our right shoulder every day, and it reminds us of the freedoms we protect."

"I think they should have them because it is a U.S.-secured area," said 2nd ID Sgt. Jose Martinez of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"We came here to liberate the people of Iraq. They should have respect for our flag, as we do theirs."

Coalition officials counter that the reason for the lack of U.S. flags flying on the bases is simple. "Displaying the American flag counters the perception that we are liberators and partners for Iraq's future security and stability," the e-mail stated. "Public display of the U.S. flag in Iraq creates false perceptions and unfounded suspicions that U.S. forces intend to permanently

occupy Iraq." Others agree with the policy. "To us, it's (flown for) pride," said Capt. Elena Rasputa of the 226th Medical Battalion. "To the Iraqis, they could see it as we're occupiers and want to stay." "Maybe they'll see it as we're conquerors," said Spc. Sixto Garcia of the 301st Military Police Brigade. "When we put the flag on the moon it basically said 'We

conquered the moon.'" Coalition officials also wrote that the flying of the U.S. flag could be used as propaganda by enemy forces.

Iraqi vendor Sabbar agreed and said, through an interpreter: "It would make people more angry. It would be beautiful if they could put up the Iraqi flag to show that U.S. forces are here to serve Iraq."

Walking through the International Zone, Spc. Dale Wade, a Pennsylvania National Guardsman with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 103rd Armored Regiment, understands how the Iraqis might perceive the flying of the flag as signifying permanence. "Yes, maybe a few might," he

said. "But some actually fly the American flag themselves."

Like many National Guard units, Wade's company has been flying its home state's flag.

Others think that flags should be flown in selected areas.

"I think flags should be flown on base camps, but if there are other places where it would be considered offensive then no," said Maj. Eric Al-

bertson, 2nd Battalion, 2nd ID, Strikeforce chaplain.

"Americans have always been sensitive to the countries in which they are living."

"I think yes, because it is our camp and we are just letting people know that there are U.S. soldiers inside," said Sgt. Joe Ramos, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 2nd ID. "If it is a building we take over, I don't think so."

Stars and Stripes reporter Seth Robson contributed to this report.
E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Afghan voter registration closes with millions signed up

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Voter registration for Afghanistan's historic presidential elections closed Sunday with U.S. and Afghan officials bailing the effort as a success, despite continuing violence throughout the country.

More than 9 million people registered to cast their ballots in the Oct. 9 polls, the first nationwide elections since the Taliban were ousted nearly three years ago.

"The surge in registration that has taken place throughout the country has to be a very vivid demonstration of the Afghan people's determination to make democracy work," said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in the capital Kabul last week.

United Nations officials estimate that 90 percent of eligible voters are now registered, with 41 percent of those women.

The elections have been pushed back twice largely due to security concerns and delays in the registration process, particularly in the southern regions. Militants have killed at least 12 registrars in the process and villages have been peppered with "night letters" threatening to kill anyone participating in the elections.

To help curb the violence, the U.S. forces launched Operation Lightning Resolve to shore up the last push in registration efforts.

U.S. units have been providing security for U.N. registration teams in areas still considered Taliban safe havens. Despite almost daily firefights, ambushes and roadside bomb attacks, those efforts appear to have paid off.

"Two months ago, the general consensus was that voter registration could not go on [in southern Afghanistan], it's too dangerous," Col. Richard Pedersen told about 200 tribal elders and provincial officials gathered in Kandahar last week.

Regardless, he said, "we have registered about 1 million people in the five southern provinces, where they said it couldn't be done."

Pedersen, who commands the U.S. task force charged with overseeing southern Afghanistan, encouraged the leaders to follow a new initiative offered by Kandahar's governor, Yousaf Pashtun, to begin developing regional plans across southern Afghanistan's five provinces.

"I encourage you all to become teammates and follow the team captain here," said Pedersen with a nod toward Pashtun.

Laying out the plan, Pashtun appeared to reach out to Taliban followers who might be ready to join ranks with the central government, while at the same time underscoring that the Taliban's influence will wane with the coming elections.

"We know that not all Taliban



A man gives his name to get his voter registration card Sunday as a group of eligible men wait to receive their ID registration cards at a mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan. The men are registering to take part in their country's upcoming presidential election. More than 9 million Afghans have signed up for the election, according to U.N. figures released on Sunday, the last official day for registration.

are terrorists. Conversely, not all terrorists are Taliban," said Pashtun. "We also know that merely holding a democratic election will not destroy either the Taliban or terrorists. However, the success of the upcoming elections will destroy their hopes of influence in our region."

That's fine, said many in attendance, but repeatedly they said Taliban raids and pervasive lack of security undermine any progress.

"The real problem is security," said one tribal elder from Uruzgan province.

When a government official was sent to the elder's region to help find drinking water and irrigation sources, the Taliban killed him, he said.

"You are talking about all these plans and all these projects, but you don't have a plan to fix the security," he said.

"Security is a problem," said Pashtun. "But at the same time we cannot wait for 100 percent security before we start any projects. One of the reasons for lack of security is lack of development," he said.

It was this kind of dialog that many officials were hoping to see come of the gathering.

"We're now at a point where we have to start looking past the elections," said Capt. Todd Schmidt, an aide to Pedersen. "We need to get people talking about their future. Help them build a vision."

Even as officials were returning from the daylong gathering Friday, two U.N. election officials were killed in Uruzgan province when their convoy was attacked by Taliban insurgents.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: andersonj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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Retired Army officer readies for the mountain

At 61, IMA-Europe worker trains for nearly 100-mile race in French Alps

By LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

A quote above Rainer Schulz's desk could be a summary of his approach to life: "It's your life. Finish it up."

When he's not working at Installation Management Agency-Europe as the chief of the residual value section-real estate, Schulz, 61, spends every free moment running, inline skating, cycling or kayaking.

All this time spent on training is for a much larger goal: to compete in ultra-marathons (anything longer than the standard 26-mile marathon) and all-night marathons, which can last for days at a time and may be nearly 100 miles.

"Most of my time off is in physical sports activity," said the retired lieutenant colonel, who is from Berlin. Schulz became a U.S. citizen and served in the Army for 25 years.

A person can train physically only to a certain point, he said, and any race of 30 miles or more requires a person to be in excellent condition.

"But after that, it's all in your mind," Schulz said.

Before 1993, Schulz had never run more than about six miles at one time. But after a friend got him interested in marathon running, it was all uphill from there.

Schulz joined a team of ama-

teur 30-something athletes to compete in adventure racing — picture an extreme version of the "Survivor" TV series.

In the Scottish Highlands, Sicily and Finland, Schulz and his team of four to five men and women would run, hike, rappel, inline skate, canoe and even rope their way across gushing rivers.

"All you get is a map with a general route," he said. "You have to have a compass and be able to read a map."

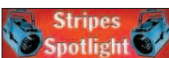
And be able to go without sleep for hours on end.

"We slept in a parking lot for 48 hours and hiked for 48 hours after that," he said of a seven-day adventure race in Scandinavia.

This month, Schulz hopes to achieve an individual goal that he has been training for all year — to finish a nearly 100-mile night marathon around the base of Mont Blanc in the French Alps. The race, which requires climbs of more than 26,000 feet, begins in France and goes into Italy and Switzerland.

"He's an inspiration," said Schulz's supervisor, Ilse Merryman, chief of real estate at DMA-E. "I don't know anyone who can look at a mountain and can go, 'Hm, maybe I can climb that.'"

Schulz competed at the Mont Blanc Run last year, but after nine hours, he succumbed to the harsh, wet weather and bowed



Rainer Schulz

Schulz is chief of the residual value section-real estate at Installation Management Agency-Europe. He spends most of his spare time training for ultra-marathons. His next event, at the end of the month, is the Mont Blanc Run, a nearly 100-mile race around the base of a mountain in the French Alps.

Age: 61

Family: Wife, Brigitte

Hometown: Heidelberg, Germany

Stars and Stripes

out after running about 75 miles. Of the roughly 600 participants, only 67 people finished the race.

Schulz is confident he can finish the race this year.

"I think I'm fairly strong-willed," he said. "It might be really, really painful when you're doing it, but when you're done, you're like on cloud nine."

"When you're physically challenged like that, some of our problems don't appear to be that big."

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RAINER SCHULZ

Rainer Schulz, a retired Army officer and Installation Management Agency-Europe employee, finishes a marathon in Biel, Switzerland, earlier this year. He will compete at the end of August at the Mont Blanc Run, a nearly 100-mile race beginning in Chamonix, France.

Pentagon CHANNEL

Serving Those Who Serve

Crash prompts Marines on Okinawa to ground CH-53s

By DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

GINOWAN, Okinawa — U.S. Marines have grounded all CH-53 helicopters on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in the wake of Friday's crash of a Sea Stallion medium-lift helicopter into a university building.

"All CH-53 helicopters will be grounded until a safety inspection is complete," 2nd Lt. Antony Andriou, public affairs officer for Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, said Sunday. He said other types of helicopters would continue to fly and the CH-53s would be put back into service as each completes the safety check.

Three crew members were injured, one seriously, when the helicopter crashed Friday afternoon some 330 yards from the fence line to the Marine air station. Witnesses say they saw the tail rotor

blade detach from the aircraft and the helicopter then zigzag as it lost altitude, before crashing into the side of the university's administration building.

No civilians were reported injured. Aircraft debris was discovered throughout a nearby residential district. The helicopter fell to the ground at the base of the school building, then into flames in a series of explosions.

The CH-53D helicopter was attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265. The crew members were from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and have been on Okinawa since April as part of the six-month Unit Deployment Program.

Their unit, Marine Heavy Squadron 463, is due to return to Hawaii in the fall.

Chiyoami Sumida contributed to this report.

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USAEUR Land Combat Expo slated for September

By KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

Those interested in learning more about the conflict in Iraq and the role that Europe-based soldiers have played in it should circle their calendars now.

U.S. Army Europe's Land Combat Expo 2004 not only will feature a star-studded array of speakers, but will showcase some of the equipment and soldiers who have spent time in the desert.

"People can come in and see the equipment we're using to perform our missions," said Maj. Tammy McKenna, one of those planning the Sept. 28-30 exposition at Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg, Germany.

And those attending — all U.S. military identification card holders and their guests are eligible — have a chance to hear from dozens of soldiers who have served in Iraq. McKenna said there will be several sessions featuring soldiers who fought in specific engagements in Iraq. They'll talk about the fights, the lessons they learned and the training and procedures that have resulted. Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division and Southern European Task Force (Airborne) will be among those talking. Visitors to the exhibition will have a chance to ask them questions.

That's also the case for the high-profile appearances of some of the military's top leaders. Marine Gen. James L. Jones and Army Gen. John P. Abizaid, the European Command and Central Command commanders respectively, are scheduled to speak. So are Gen. B.B. Bell, the USAEUR commander, and Lt. Gen. William Wallace and Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, who led V Corps and Coalition Joint Task Force 7 efforts in Iraq. Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, the 1st AD commander, and Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the 4th Infantry Division commander, also are included in the



RIC SCARVETTA/Stars and Stripes

Howard Aran, left, of the military history unit Pershing's Doughboys, shows a Thompson submachine gun to SPC. Jesse Garcia, center, and SPC. Bertin Salgado, both members of the 1st Infantry Division, during the U.S. Army Europe's Land Combat Expo 2003 in Heidelberg, Germany. This year's three-day expo is slated for Sept. 28-30 in Heidelberg.

list of speakers.

In addition to American participation, NATO allies Great Britain, Germany, Poland and Italy are all set to display equipment and field booths.

Current equipment and technology won't be the only focuses, though. Some of

the gadgetry the military is hoping to field in the future also will be on display. Included among that will be the next line of Meals, Ready to Eat that visitors will be able to sample.

The exhibition is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each of the three days. Admission is

free.

McKenna said there will be more vendors and displays this year and attendance is also expected to rise from previous years.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@starsandstripes.com

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

F. C. Hilliard, So glad to hear from you, Son. Got the second letter recently. Have taken note of the new mailing address for packages. Just sent small package with eye drops (2), chap sticks (2), and travel-size toiletries, sm. amount. A few "goodies", news, pictures from George W. and his letter. I don't have any idea how long it will take to reach you, but I trust it will. There was no letter in this package because I had no time to prepare one; there has been problems for the supplies units this week, as you may already know. We were so glad to get your letters. The last one was especially good. And does set our minds at ease more, (but you are still in the midst of WAR), so we will continue to pray and in agreement for your safety. We continue to pray in earnest for you, and wait at home to hear from you personally, some day soon we hope, when things settle down. And of course, eager to see you home. Dad is getting a little better at a time with weather improving. Also, he has cut his stress level some by staying "on-duty" in the "ole" bag house. I am doing what I can to help and encourage all loved ones. Staying tuned to CNN—although not always correct in the reporting, the eager ambition to cover soon and as much as possible makes up for the errors.

Your daddy is on his way to bed now, I asked him what to say to you. He says, "Be careful, and I love you". I will prepare a letter to send by regular mail delivery soon, with family/friends type news; that way I know you will be receiving some things from some source, even if not all of it is delivered in a timely manner. Much love, continued hope and prayers for you and all who work and serve with you; We are all in agreement. God Bless You, Keep You, Help You and Protect You, ALL. Sweet Wishes!!!! And, God's Speed. Love and Pride, Always! Mom; Cheryl W. Hilliard.

Hi Son, Kerri told me she's got to talk to you a couple of times. I've sent you a letter and a CD with pictures. Grandma and aunts have sent you 3 boxes. It'll be like Christmas when it gets there! Take care, stay safe, and I love you. Mom.

We want to extend our prayers and gratitude for all that you are doing to assure not only for our safety but our freedom. We support you 100%. Sherri

By STEPHANIE HOO

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A British film crew says it has found the last American defector still living in North Korea — a U.S. Army private who crossed over to the Stalinist state in 1962 and says he is glad he did.

Pvt. James Dresnok lives in the capital Pyongyang, where he says he likes his "simple life," said filmmaker Nicholas Bonner, who met him there in May and plans to make a documentary about him. "To us he's the most fascinating character because he's still there," Bonner said Sunday.

The U.S. military has said that Dresnok, from Norfolk, Va., left the Army in August 1962 at age 21.

The film crew met with Dresnok and with Charles Jenkins, an accused U.S. Army deserter from North Carolina who has since left North Korea for Japan.

"We were under the supervision of the North Korean military," Dresnok told the filmmakers, according to their news release. "They took good care of us and they requested us to teach English to military personnel."

Dresnok and Jenkins told the filmmakers that two other American servicemen had died in North Korea of natural causes — Pvt. Larry A. Abshier of Urbana, Ill.,

who the U.S. military says went missing from his unit in May 1962 at age 19, and Cpl. Jerry W. Parish of Morganfield, Ky., who is accused of deserting in December 1963 at age 19.

Jenkins has told officials in Japan that two American servicemen he knew in North Korea had died and that one still lives there, according to Japanese news reports.

Bonner and fellow filmmaker Daniel Gordon plan to film interviews with Dresnok in September, following an agreement with the North Korean government.

Dresnok remains "shrouded in the most mystery," Bonner said in Beijing, where he is based. "He's the man no one knew about."

"I did not want to stay in DPRK at first," Dresnok told the film crew, referring to North Korea by the initials of its formal name. "I wanted to go to Russia," he said.

"Having crossed, after a few months, I began thinking it over and decided to remain," he is quoted as saying.

"I'm glad I did, because about 10 years ago, Russia changed from socialism to capitalism. If I was in Russia right now, I would be out of work," he said. "It would be the same if I returned to America. I find it more convenient to live among peaceful people, living a simple life."

Allied invasion of southern France recalled

Vets honored at 60th anniversary

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

WDRAGUIGNAN, France — After waves of Allied troops had stormed the shores of southern France by the time then-U.S. Army Capt. Francis Even arrived that hot August afternoon.

During World War II, Even was in charge of getting some 200 tanks and vehicles off the assault cargo ship USS Oberon for a mission called Operation Dragoon. He helped prepare his men to unload the equipment and watched them leave the ship to face an entrenched German army in much the same way Allied forces invaded Normandy on D-Day.

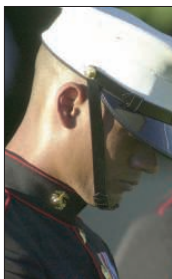
Sixty years to the day he stepped foot on the beach, he hasn't forgotten the horror that greeted him: the mangled body of a young infantry soldier who had been carrying a .45-caliber submachine gun and was bristling with full of extra magazines.



Left: Military veteran Gene Fric kneels before a grave at Rhone American Cemetery in Draguignan, France. About 1,500 Americans and French at the cemetery on Saturday commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Allied landing in southern France. **Right:** U.S. Marines from the Rota, Spain-based Marine Corps Security Force Company Europe bow their heads during the ceremony's invocation.

"He was apparently struck in those magazines, and I'm afraid it kind of opened him up," Even said. "That's the first thing I saw when I came ashore."

Hundreds of U.S. and Allied troops died trying to drive the



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Nazis out of southern France during the Battle of Provence. Many of the casualties were killed the first couple of days of the assault.

On the 60th anniversary of the landing, French and American war veterans and active-duty ser-

vicemen Saturday evening commemorated the beginning of the historic invasion, which some people call the "forgotten Normandy." They also honored the fallen during a formal ceremony at Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, where 861 Americans are buried.

The Draguignan cemetery is one of several planned throughout southern France and the hundreds planned throughout the country.

The U.S. military is participating in many of them. At Rhone, sailors and Marines from Naval Station Rota, Spain, and airmen from the 774th Expeditionary Air Base Group in Istres served as honor guard. French army officer students from the nearby artillery school also served as honor guard.

The invasion and ensuing battle up the Rhone Valley has always been overshadowed in history books and war documentaries by the Normandy assault, but the landing proved crucial to the liberation of France from the Germans.

Adm. Gregory Johnson, commander of U.S. naval forces in Europe, reminded veterans during the ceremony of the significance of their achievement, quoting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme allied commander at the time.

"There was no development of that period which added more decisively to our advantages or aided us more in accomplishing the final and complete defeat of the (German) forces than this secondary attack coming up the Rhone Valley," Eisenhower said.

A southern D-Day?

Allied war planners began thinking about taking southern France in August 1943. They had originally wanted to launch attacks at Normandy and southern France simultaneously, but American factories couldn't build enough landing craft and they had to scrap the idea.

After the Normandy invasion in June, Navy ships transported the D-Day landing craft to the Mediterranean Sea in preparation for the southern invasion.

On the eve of the attack, assault units landed to protect the flanks of the invasion areas on the beach. As an Allied armada of 500 warships bombed German forces, the U.S. 3rd, 36th and 45th divisions of the U.S. VI Corps attacked areas from St. Tropez to St. Raphael.

On Aug. 15, 1944, at 4:30 a.m., several thousand paratroopers landed around Le Muy.

Gene Fric, a paratrooper with the 517th Parachute Regiment, was one of them. He landed in the hills with the British, far away from his unit. Many of the soldiers in his unit had not seen much combat and they were nervous.

"Hell, I was always scared," Fric said. "Being frightened makes a better soldier out of you. If you're not frightened, you're not doing much."

The toughest part wasn't the landing, but the drive up north as they chased the fleeing German army, he said. Troops went weeks with only limited equipment and food. As they pushed forward, new soldiers joined the unit to replace the casualties. The replacements often died before they got to know their new squad.

"When you found that people were being killed before you even learned what their name was, I mean that's tragic," Fric said. "The good die young, they say. And I found that to be true."

The fighting got tougher as they got into the mountains. When Fric heard one of his best friends was killed, he said his youthful invincibility vanished. He worried he could meet the same fate.

"When I found out he had died, I think it made me think, you know, life is fragile," said Fric, now 78. "You realize you're living not on borrowed time but fragile ground."

A chaotic first day

Patrick Heagerty, a sergeant at the time, arrived on the beach with the second wave and didn't meet much resistance.

SEE CEREMONY ON PAGE 11

Rhone holds special meaning to Istres, France-based airman

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

WDRAGUIGNAN, France — U.S. servicemeners consider it an honor to travel to southern France and participate in Saturday's 60th anniversary of the Battle of Provence. But the event has a special meaning to Air Force Master Sgt. David Zibell.

His grandfather, Richard McFarland, is buried at Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, which hosted a ceremony in honor of those who participated in the historic invasion.

Zibell — attached to the Phoenix-based 161st Aerial Refueling Wing, an Air National Guard unit deployed to Istres, France — was able to see his grandfather's grave for the third time. He first made a trip to the cemetery in 1977.

The 12-acre cemetery, 28 miles from Cannes, is on the eastern edge of the city of Draguignan on Kennedy Boulevard and is the final resting place for 861 Americans who died in the battle. White Italian marble crosses and Stars of David mark each grave, which is immaculately maintained.

"Every time you come here you're just awe-struck," said Zibell, 47, of Gilbert, Ariz.

His grandfather was a glider pilot and died during the landing portion of the invasion early in the battle. Zibell said he was told that his grandfather was nicknamed "Pappy" because he was 31 years old, an elder to many of the 19- and 20-year-old soldiers who served during World War II.

Zibell has had the opportunity to participate in other World War II ceremonies in France since his unit is in Istres for a 90-day deployment. At one of the ceremonies, he became friends with a local Frenchman. On Saturday, Zibell was surprised to see his new friend with a bouquet of roses for his grandfather's grave.

"The French are very grateful," Zibell said. "They've treated us really well everywhere we go."

While disagreements over the war in Iraq between the United States and France has strained relations between the two allies, U.S. servicemeners were surprised to find how well they were received during their visit.



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Master Sgt. David Zibell, a member of the 774th Expeditionary Air Base Group in Istres, France, stands Saturday beside his grandfather's grave at Rhone American Cemetery.

The city paid for the lodging and meals for Rota, Spain-based sailors and Marines, who served as part of the ceremony's honor guard. After Saturday evening's ceremony, when the group went to a special, outdoor dinner in the middle of the city, the residents gave them a friendly ovation.

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Far left: U.S. veterans who received France's highest military honor, the Legion of Merit, attend a ceremony Saturday at Rhone American Cemetery in Draguignan, France. Left: A U.S. sailor from Naval Station Rota, Spain, salutes during the national anthem at Saturday's ceremony.

PHOTOS BY
SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

Ceremony: France awards 10 vets Legion of Merit

CEREMONY, FROM PAGE 10

Heagerty said what he remembers most about the landing is the scattered gas masks on the shore. Soldiers had to bring the masks in case of a gas attack, but infantrymen found them cumbersome and ditched them as soon as they landed. His squad landed at St. Tropez.

Between 40,000 and 60,000 U.S. soldiers stormed the beaches in addition to French and British troops. Some 450,000 men took part in the invasion, and soldiers often got separated from their units in the chaotic landing.

Soon after hitting the beach, Heagerty's unit thought it spotted a group of German soldiers. But they turned out to be Ameri-

can paratroops. "We almost shot the hell out of them," he said.

As the days went by and his unit moved farther north up the Rhone Valley, the weather got colder and the fighting got more intense. "My own personal attitude is after a while, jeez, I wanted to get out of there. But you can't run away, obviously," he said.

Final respects

The U.S. VI Corps continued to push north. On Sept. 11, the U.S. 7th Army met up with the 3rd Army from Normandy. In less than a month, U.S. troops that stormed southern France had traveled 400 miles and had isolated the remaining German troops in southwest France.

After the war, Even would go to law school and become a lawyer. He is semi-retired now. Although it has been six decades since he landed in southern France as an Army officer, the lifeless body of the young infantryman on the beach is what he remembers most about that day.

He and a group of veterans traveled from the United States to take part in the Draguignan ceremony and tour several of the old battlegrounds around southern France.

Many of the veterans are in their late 70s and early 80s. His trip to France might be his last time to pay his respects to the friends who died and those like the unknown soldier he saw on the shore.

"Well, it's kind of a last hurrah," he said

of the trip. "I'm 83. I'll be 84 in three weeks. I doubt very much I would be coming to any such thing again."

Fewer veterans are attending annual commemoration ceremonies at overseas cemeteries because of old age. As a special tribute to a fading group of former warriors, France awarded 10 U.S. veterans with the Legion of Merit, the country's equivalent to the Medal of Honor.

Michelle Alliot-Marie, France's minister of defense, pinned the prestigious medal on Even, Heagerty and the other veterans in attendance during Saturday's ceremony. "It's an exceptional honor for me," Heagerty said. "I'm surprised they gave it to me. A lot of guys deserve it."

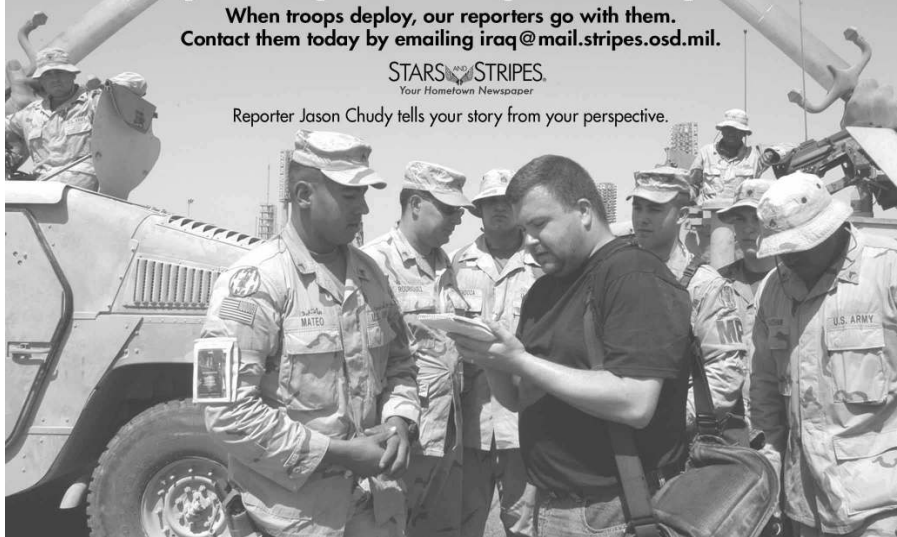
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IN THE STATES

Fla. residents take in Charley's aftermath

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON
The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — As the remnants of Hurricane Charley disintegrated off the New England coast on Sunday, Florida residents began the massive task of cleaning up from a storm that state officials estimated caused damage as high as \$11 billion for insured homes alone.

Florida officials raised the death toll attributed to Charley from 13 to 16. No details on the additional deaths were immediately released.

Leticia Caponera, who fled her home on Easy Street in Port Charlotte as the storm approached, returned to find it completely destroyed.

"You can go from house to house, it's all this way," she said as she picked up a pillowcase, one of the few things on her lawn she could find that was not ruined.

Chad Maxwell shoveled up soggy ceiling tiles and shattered glass Sunday from the floor of the real estate office where he works in Punta Gorda. Looking at the coffee shop next door, which lost its second floor, and a florist with only one wall standing, he described his impression of downtown "Beirut."

"It looks like a bomb zone. Everything's gone. Everything's torn up," he said. The Rev. Leroy Martin sent up two dozen candles and laid Bibles on them outside his small Punta Gorda church, unsure whether the darkened building was safe for services.



A crumpled Cessna airplane sits upside down against a building Sunday morning at the Port Charlotte Airport in Port Charlotte, Fla. Hurricane Charley flipped several planes at the airport.

"I guess it is at a time like this when you realize the significance of spiritual values when everything else has blown away," Martin said.

The hardest-hit areas appeared to be Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte in Charlotte County, though the Federal Emergency Management Agency declared 25 counties eligible for disaster aid after the worst hurricane to hit Florida in a dozen years.

As a weakened Charley churned up the East Coast and

was downgraded Sunday to a tropical depression, emergency officials pronounced it the worst hurricane to wallow Florida since Hurricane Andrew tore through in 1992. Twenty-six deaths were directly linked to Andrew, which caused \$19.9 billion in insured property losses.

The luxury vacation haven of North Captiva Island, which can be reached only by air and boat, was divided in two by Charley's storm surge, creating a new inlet that appears to be several hun-

dreds yards long, Lee County spokesman Pat O'Rourke said. The island's main road was submerged, but the extent of damage to homes was not determined.

State officials said it was impossible to estimate the number of missing people, and downed power lines and debris made the task of searching for bodies "tedious and dangerous," said Mike McHargue, director of investigations for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

An initial damage estimate of \$5

billion to \$11 billion was based on the value of homes and insurance policies in the storm's path, said Tami Torres, a spokeswoman for state Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher. Uninsured homes, business losses and damage to automobiles were not included.

Thirty-one mobile-home parks in Charlotte County sustained major damage, some with more than 1,000 units, said Bob Carpenter, a sheriff's spokesman. He said teams were sent to each park to search for bodies and survivors, but "we just couldn't get the vehicles in — there is so much debris."

Charley cut northeast across Florida, hit open ocean and made landfall again at South Carolina's Grand Strand resort region Saturday. The weakened but still-powerful system moved into North Carolina and up the eastern seaboard.

At 11 a.m. EDT Sunday, Charley's center was east of Massachusetts' Cape Cod and moving northward at about 30 mph. It was downgraded from a tropical storm Sunday as winds of 35 mph.

The storm knocked out power in the Carolinas and caused some flooded streets and power outages in Virginia, but caused little damage when it passed up the East Coast.

In Florida, Charley knocked out power to an estimated 2 million people as it hit southwest Florida as a Category 4 storm, pummeling the coast with winds reaching 145 mph and a surge of sea water of 13 feet to 15 feet.

Bush views hurricane damage

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Marine One flew low over demolished homes, downed power lines and uprooted palm trees here Sunday to give President

Bush a bird's eye view of the destruction caused when Hurricane Charley roared through this southwest Florida city.

"A lot of people's lives are turned upside down," Bush said, standing next to his brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, on a residential street in Punta Gorda.

Bush visited the state to assess the damage two days after declaring Florida a major disaster area. State officials said early estimates of the hurricane's residential property damage ranged from \$5 billion to \$11 billion.

"We've got ice and water moving in, trailers for people to live in are moving in," Bush said, standing in the steamy, midday heat.

"The state is providing security so that people can have peace of

mind that their neighborhoods will be safe."

Bush said federal assistance was being rushed to the area. After Hurricane Andrew hit Florida in 1992, claiming 26 lives and causing nearly \$20 billion in insured property losses, there were complaints that federal assistance was deployed too slowly.

"We're moving a lot of aid very quickly," Bush said. "All I can tell you is that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) was on the ground yesterday morning and there's a lot of supplies surging this way."

Later, Bush's motorcycle drove through downtown Punta Gorda, where buildings were missing roofs, fences were flattened and palm trees were already being cut into chunks for removal.

Asked whether his quick trip to Florida carried political undertones, Bush replied: "And if I didn't come, they would have said he should have been here more rapidly."

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ Just wanted to send a note to all my fellow Floridians: Keep up the great work. As a retired EWC, I pray that all you come home safe and sound and applaud you for the fantastic jobs you're doing. I know I speak for many, many Americans when I say: "God Bless you all and God bless America!" Robert J. Reinig, Sr., USNR-Ret

★ As a mother of three young boys, I salute you for willing to lay down your lives so that my sons can enjoy the freedom we sometimes take for granted. To the mothers of the sons and daughters fighting so valiantly, thank you for raising your children to stand for their country's freedom and for bravely letting your children go to protect us and our families. God Bless! United We Stand! Christine Schubert

★ You are in my thoughts and in my prayers. You are so very brave, braver than I would ever be. I wish for a swift resolution and a quick return to the US to be once more among your loved ones. Please be as safe as you possibly can. Brigitte

★ TO OUR AMERICAN AND BRITISH FRIENDS: THANK YOU AND MAY GOD TRULY BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR PRESIDENT AND THE NATION. YOU ALL REMAIN IN OUR PRAYERS THAT THE LORD WILL KEEP HIS PROTECTIVE HAND UPON YOU AND FOR A SAFE AND QUICK RETURN HOME. WE SUPPORT YOU!!!!!! YOUR FRIENDS, THE BREIL FAMILY. PSALM 31:24

★ Doug, Hey. How are you doing? We love you and miss you very much! We are proud of you and really appreciate what you are doing to serve your country. Just remember that God is in control. Please be careful and stay safe. We love you always! Love, Naomi

★ my family and i watch your faces on tv all day and night. i am supporting you by only sleeping four hours every twenty. Our hearts are with you.

Democrat: Trying to block Goss approval 'wrong fight' for party

BY LEIGH STROPE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee warned fellow Democrats in the Senate on Sunday against trying to block the nomination of Rep. Porter Goss as CIA director, saying that would be picking the wrong fight in this election year.

Democrats should ask tough questions of Goss, R-Fla., at Senate confirmation hearings next month, but "my view is this is the wrong fight," Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"To get stuck in a fight about Porter Goss after tough questions are asked of Porter Goss is not where we want to be this fall," said Harman, who has no vote on the matter because the Senate confirms presidential nominees.

Goss resigned as chairman of the House intelligence panel last week after President Bush nominated him to replace George Tenet at CIA.

Harman said Congress should move swiftly to push through recommendations from the Sept. 11 commission, including creating a new national intelligence director.

Bush "missed an opportunity" for intelligence re-



Goss

form by nominating Goss as permanent CIA director, she said.

Many Democrats have criticized the selection of Goss, saying he is inappropriately partisan for a job that requires relaying objective advice to policy makers in the executive and legislative branches.

But Democrats also are mindful of the 2002 congressional elections in which the White House and Republicans put them in a political box regarding creation of the new Homeland Security Department.

Democrats opposed the Bush administration's demand that some federal workers lose long-held civil service protections. But the GOP convinced many voters that Democrats were blocking important legislation to protect the country — even though the new department began as a Democratic plan.

Members of both parties returned from their August recess last week to attend hearings on the findings of the 9/11 commission, which in late July released a scathing report on pre-Sept. 11, 2001, intelligence gathering, citing multiple failures.

Senate leaders want to enact changes the report suggested by the first week in October.

"It is an election year, but this issue transcends politics and terrorists do not wait," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He said on "Meet the Press" that he thinks al-Qaida is "going to go back to heavy mortar explosions," "maybe even airplanes, in planning an attack, 'because that's what they do best.'"

The threat of another attack before the election spurred Goss' nomination.

Ad calls man 'terrorist'

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A Pakistani man charged with immigration violations after filming sky-scrapers is described in a "terrorist" who came to the United States "to kill you" in a new television ad from a North Carolina congressional candidate.

Vernon Robinson began airing the ad days before his runoff elec-

tion in a Republican primary against state Sen. Virginia Fox.

Kamran Akhtar, arrested July 20, has been in custody ever since on immigration charges and on charges he made false statements to officers.

Stricter enforcement of immigration laws has been a central issue in Robinson's campaign. His new ad shows a picture of Akhtar.

From The Associated Press

Israeli map denies having affair with gay N.J. governor

BY RAMIT
PLUSHNICK-MAST
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli man at the center of New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey's resignation over a gay affair said in an interview published Sunday that he is straight and had no idea at first that his boss is a homosexual.

Golan Cipel told the Israeli daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth that McGreevey repeatedly made unwarranted advances. Cipel said he informed the governor at one point that he planned to sue him for sexual harassment, and that lawyers were negotiating a settlement when McGreevey resigned last week.

"It doesn't bother me that it is I am gay, but I really am not. I'm straight. On the other hand, to accuse me of being an extortionist? Someone here has lost his mind," Cipel was quoted as telling Yedioth from New York.

McGreevey, who is married, announced his resignation Thursday, acknowledging that he is gay and had an affair with a man.

Sources within the McGreevey administration named Cipel as the lover and said he had demanded millions of dollars to stay quiet.

"I'll news conference Friday," Cipel's attorneys denied the claims, saying McGreevey's attorney had offered to pay if Cipel didn't file a lawsuit. Al Levy, one of Cipel's attorneys, did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment.

McGreevey and Cipel met in

March 2000 during a visit by the governor to Israel. In 2002, the governor appointed Cipel as New Jersey's \$110,000-a-year homeland security adviser without a background check or official announcement. The appointment drew criticism, and Cipel was re-

assigned a few months later and soon after left government.

The Israeli reporter, Yair Lapid, who interviewed Cipel for Yedioth, said the 35-year-old spoke rapidly through out the interview and appeared frightened and emotional.

Cipel said he wanted to forget about McGreevey after he left New Jersey and took a job in New York, but that the governor continued to make unwanted contact.

"He hit on the over and over. I got to a point where I was afraid to stay with him alone," Cipel said.

McGreevey and his camp insist it was a consensual affair.

"These are all false allegations by someone who's trying to exploit his relationship with the governor," McGreevey spokesman Micah Rasmussen said Sunday.

Cipel said he would stay in New York to see the case through. "I could have gotten on the first plane home, but I am staying here until justice is done," Cipel was quoted as saying.



Cipel

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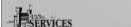
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EXCHANGE RATES	
Military rates	
Japanese yen (Aug. 16)	108.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 16)	1,129.50
Euro	51,293.91
British pound	41.88
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3370
British pound	\$1.8443
Canada (Dollar)	1.3095
Denmark (Krone)	1.8519
Egypt (Pound)	6.1880
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2372
Hungary (Forint)	7.988
Iceland (Krona)	202.50
Israel (Shekel)	70.425
Japan (Yen)	110.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.6547
Norway (Krone)	6.7521
Philippines (Peso)	65.25
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7590
Singapore (Dollar)	1.1480
South Korea (Won)	1,155.50
Switzerland (Franc)	1.286
Thailand (Baht)	47.51
Turkey (Lira)	1,470,500.15
(Military exchange rates are available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance and non-U.S. citizens in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. U.S. purchasing British pounds in Germany. Check your local bank for rates. Exchange rates are provided for reference when the dollar is the base currency. All figures are in U.S. dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
PRECIOUS METALS	
New York Mercile close	
Gold	\$298.90
Silver	\$6.617
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
3-month bank rate	2.50
3-month bill	1.43
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

Stars and Strips

Messages of Support

★ I want all our military personnel to know that we here at home are praying for them and for our President, and for the military leaders that God will give victory soon. We pray for wisdom for the generals and protection for the troops. God bless you each one and God bless America. Denise. Columbia, MO

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Ready kids for credit

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Before your child leaves for college, impart some wisdom and information about the basics of credit.

Credit card companies inundate students with offers, according to Deborah McNaughton, president of Professional Credit Counselors. "The companies just see dollar signs for the future," she said. If a student gets hooked, he or she may continue to provide the credit-card company with business after graduation.

In turn, students may see a credit card as a "power card," McNaughton added. "They don't have to ask Mommy and Daddy, 'Can I use it?'" The reality of the youngster's charges doesn't set in until the bill arrives.

Teach your child to charge only what he or she can afford. Have the young adult figure out how much she or he can pay per month, and then limit charges to that amount. To keep track, "students need to write in a check registry or on an index card every time they charge something," McNaughton advises. Even if your child is attending school on the other side of the country, you can help him or her avoid major financial mistakes.

Arrange for a credit card linked to a bank account. You and your child can both fund the account, and spending is limited.

You also could set up a credit card for which you act as the primary account holder. This way, you can tell the bank that you're the one getting the bills and controlling the expenses. Just don't go as far as co-signing a loan or credit card for your child.

OPINION

Need to serve is lost on military's critics ...

BY JEFF BERGNER

In an interesting exchange at the Democratic convention, Michael Moore asked Bill O'Reilly whether he would sacrifice his son to capture Fallujah. The question caught my attention because our youngest son had just returned from discussing post-graduate options with a Marine recruiter.

This type of question is designed to be difficult to answer — and judging from O'Reilly's response, it was. This is because it is a rhetorical device and not a substantial question at all. This is true in four aspects.

First, it has the high standard of "sacrifice." No normal parent is prepared to sacrifice his child for any reason or objective, including military objectives. The same could be said of any desirable objective. Would you, for example, sacrifice your child to expand health care to the uninsured? Or even, in the customary example, to save the life of another of one's own children? It is hard to imagine any objective for which one would sacrifice one's child.

The question is more akin to a philosophy class exercise than a real-world moral dilemma. Service in the armed forces can be

risky, but it is not tantamount to a death sentence. Were service in the armed forces a certain route to the ultimate sacrifice of one's life, the armed forces would be small indeed. Maybe that is Moore's goal.

Second, the question is addressed to the wrong person. Many members of the armed forces have at least one living parent. All, however, are adult men and women in their own right. And it is they, not their parents, who choose to serve in the armed forces. The question that parents face is not whether to sacrifice their children but whether to support their children in the broad and often risky activities they must perform when they enter military service.

Third, the objective of Fallujah's pacification is too narrowly stated. Would anyone enlist for the specific purpose of keeping supply convoys moving into Baghdad? Or to open a road to a dusty town? Or to pacify a town or the occupants of a house? Or to be killed by friendly fire? Many young Americans have lost their lives in just such ways.

But these are tasks incidental to the larger purpose of military service: protecting the interests of the United States.

If Saddam Hussein's tyranny is replaced by a decent government,

if that new government becomes a working partner in changing the Middle East, and if this helps to prevent another major act of terrorism against the United States, are these not purposes that just as not blind "sacrifice" but at least a measure of personal risk? True, the purposes of U.S. foreign policy can surely be described far too grandly, but one can surely demand them beyond recognition as well.

Finally, the question ignores the issue of consequences. We all know that the full consequences of our decisions are impossible to predict. So are the consequences of our indecisions. If there are risks and sacrifices entailed by action, there are also risks and sacrifices entailed by inaction. Was it not precisely the burden of the Sept. 11 commission to consider why no one asked young Americans to risk their lives in a serious mission to kill Osama bin Laden before Sept. 11, 2001? Michael Moore suggests as much when he allows that pre-emptive action to eliminate Adolf Hitler before World War II would have been justified. In retrospect, perhaps this case is easy enough. But would he have thought so in the 1930s? Would he not have joined the chorus of voices on both sides of the Atlantic



where refrain was that Hitler was no threat at all, and definitely not an "imminent" threat?

We live in a world of occasional hard choices. Young adults must decide whether they will serve in the armed forces. Parents must decide to accept or support those choices. And policy-makers must make their best, if imperfect, judg-

ments about when to send young men and women into harm's way. In none of these choices does Michael Moore's question offer the slightest guidance.

Jeff Bergner is a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He previously served as Republican staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

...but recruitment tactics downplay real dangers

BY G. JEFFERSON PRICE III

The Baltimore Sun

"Bait and switch" is one of the oldest techniques in the book for disreputable merchants trying to lure customers to their stores.

The merchant advertises an item at an unbelievably low price. That's the bait. It could be anything from a car to a TV set. But when the customer arrives in the store, the advertised item is no longer in stock, and the merchant sets about trying to persuade the customer to buy a more expensive model that just happens to be in stock. That's the switch.

And it's illegal. This phony sales play came to mind recently when a recruiting brochure arrived at our house from the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky. It was addressed to my son, who just turned 21 and would be a prime candidate for the draft if there were no one.

The brochure is very enticing. And seems especially directed at Hispanics. "The Army has a career waiting for you. Take the next step by saying 'Yo Soy El Army.'"

Here's what the Army offers: "The chance to qualify for 150 careers; guaranteed training in your chosen career; up to \$20,000 enlistment bonus; up to \$50,000 for college after you serve; 30 days of paid vacation earned each year; up to \$65,000 to pay back qualifying student loans."

"Or serve part time in the Army Reserve. Train near home, ready to serve full time if needed, and you'll receive..."

The brochure then lists similar enticements at lower rates. "Here's your chance to become whatever you want to be — a paratrooper, chef, medical specialist, journalist, whatever you can imagine."

Now that's some bait. Imagine a young man or woman who can't go to college because it's not affordable and who can't get a job because the economy is

not producing enough jobs for the number of people entering the job market. Imagine how appealing this brochure from Fort Knox would be for that person.

The brochure has photos of people working at a couple of the 150 jobs the Army would train them for: One is of a medical technician; another is of a cook outfitted in a chef's hat. Why wouldn't an individual living with little hope for the future seize the opportunity for all that training and money? The asterisk for reservists meant me looking for an explanation.

That would be "Benefits based on qualifications. Information subject to change." That's in tiny print, the other merchandise's boon.

The brochure says nothing about the switch. It says nothing about what the Army's main job is these days. It says nothing about the danger that exists for someone entering the military today; the likelihood of being sent to Iraq or Afghanistan. It says nothing about needing to train individuals to kill or be killed in Iraq. In fact, the brochure

does not even mention the two main theaters in the war against terrorism.

As for the attraction of joining the reserves, it does not mention that up to 40 percent of the military serving in Iraq today are reservists, many of whom did not expect to go to war for such prolonged periods when they signed up. If they did not expect this, might be because they were motivated to sign up by brochures such as the one from Fort Knox.

Don't get me wrong. It's unfortunate that mankind has yet to develop an alternative to brute force as the ultimate settler of disagreements. So we need a military. The armed services have a need and every right to recruit Americans. But let them be honest about it.

America is at war, and it needs young men and women to fight in that war. Joining the armed services with that in mind is an act of patriotism and valor. But there is no mention of patriotism or valor in the brochure. There is no mention of war. Instead, it suggests the Army is training a force of medical specialists, chefs and journalists. ...

The truth is that the draft should be reinstated so that every segment of the population is called to serve rather than the segment most likely to be lured to service by promises of jobs and training and education. That would drastically alter the political dynamics of sending people off to war, which is precisely why the draft is not likely to be reinstated. A greater cross section of the population in service is likelier to demand greater accountability and honesty.

Don't blame the Army, though, for engaging in some misleading advertising to attract men and women to serve.

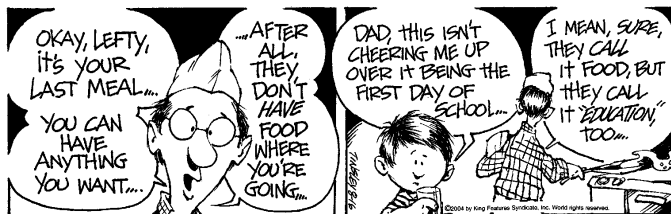
Bait and switch turns out to have been the very play that the commander in chief and his secretary of defense — among others — used to get Americans into the war in Iraq.

... Osama bin Laden and his network are the real, credible and abiding threat. But somehow we got switched to Iraq, and we'll be paying the price for that switch for many years to come.

G. Jefferson Price III is the former perspective editor of The Sun.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



No naked cheering

FL GAINESVILLE — University of Florida's cheerleading coach was fired after he gave the squad permission to promote more than school pride at a cheerleading camp.

Gene Moore, 39, said he was unfairly terminated for allowing squad members to wear T-shirts that listed "10 Reasons to Cheer Naked." He was fired after the University Athletic Association received complaints about the shirts. The firing leaves the squad without a coach three weeks before the first football game.

Moore had been coach for five years, making \$19,000 last year.

The squad was attending a college cheerleading camp this week in Myrtle Beach, S.C., when a couple of cheerleaders distributed the T-shirts for Spirit Day. Members traded shirts with cheerleaders from other schools.

"Yes, I was aware of it and, yes, it was a mistake," Moore said. "I don't feel like firing me over it after I've put in five years was justified."

Hate crimes award

CT DERBY — A former Milford couple was ordered to pay more than \$11,000 in a hate crimes lawsuit. A jury awarded the money to the interracial family of Tarvis Simms, who accused their white neighbors Wilfred and Michelle Chaisson of using racial slurs and making death threats. The suit was filed nine months after the Chaissons were sentenced to two years of probation for harassing the family. This time the Chaissons were ordered to move out of town and attend diversity education classes.

Meeting minority goals

WI MADISON — The stadium district overseeing the Lambeau Field reconstruction met state-imposed goals for hiring women and minorities for the project, according to a report. The Legislative Audit Bureau report also found the district met goals for awarding contracts to businesses owned by women and minorities. The \$295 million renovation of the Green Bay Packers' stadium was completed last summer.

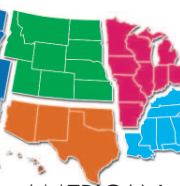
Even bad guys can vote

MT HELENA — A husband-and-wife team from Bozeman is traveling the state to register convicted felons to vote. Casey Rudd and husband Eddie Rudd run Connections, a re-entry program for former inmates. A survey by the program last year showed that many people do not know felons can vote once they're out of prison.

Connections received a federal grant of \$5,000 this year as part of the Help America Vote Act education campaign.

Stenographers victory

NH MANCHESTER — A judge has ruled that 15 stenographers working in the superior



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

courts can't be fired while their lawsuit is pending against the state Supreme Court.

The stenographers, who use special typewriters to take down every word of court proceedings, sued the high court to prevent the state from replacing them with tape recorders.

They argue that past judges have promised that wouldn't happen.

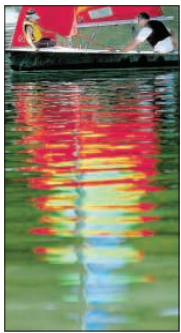
A judge recently dismissed the lawsuit, but said he would delay the firings if the case was appealed. A lawyer for the stenographers said the case will be brought before the Supreme Court.

Cross-state pollution

OK LAKE TEXOMA — Air pollution from Texas is causing some Oklahoma counties to have poor air quality, according to an American Lung Association report. State and federal environmental officials say poor air quality readings in Jefferson and Marshall counties are caused by smog carried from the Dallas area by southerly winds. Officials say all Oklahoma counties do meet federal clean air standards.

Wrongfully imprisoned

PA PHILADELPHIA — A death row inmate who



Colorful reflections

Maxine Sugarman, 11, left, gets a sailing lesson from her father, Michael, while the pair takes a spin around Foy's Lake in Kalispell, Mont.

spent 22 years in prison before a DNA test exonerated him in a rape and murder case filed a lawsuit accusing detectives and prosecutors of withholding evidence that could have set him free.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for the time Nicholas Yarris spent behind bars before genetic testing cleared him in the 1981 death of a Delaware County woman. Yarris' attorney earlier indicated he was seeking \$22 million.

It alleges authorities purposely hid evidence from Yarris' defense lawyer before his trial — including the existence of a pair of gloves that investigators believed had been worn by the killer.

Yarris said the gloves were too small for his hands.

Teen stabs neighbor

MN NEW SCANDIA TOWN — A 14-year-old boy armed with a military knife stormed into a woman's house and, for reasons not yet determined, stabbed his sleeping neighbor at least 20 times before she was able to fight him off, authorities said.

The woman, Jaclyn Larson, a 20-year-old college student, called 911 and identified her attacker before she was taken to a hospital in St. Paul, according to authorities.

She was last known to be listed in fair condition.

Drowning death

VA MONETA — A woman has drowned at her home on Smith Mountain Lake, officials said.

Carole Grace, 64, drowned in about 15 feet of water off the dock of her Moneta home the night of Aug. 3, said Sgt. Harry Clingenpeel of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. She was alone and did not know how to swim, he said.

Clingenpeel said that alcohol apparently was a factor in the accident.

Lanny Grace said his wife went outside to feed their dog and he became concerned when she did not return.

Resort is a gamble

RI PROVIDENCE — The state Supreme Court said a referendum on whether Harrah's Entertainment can build a resort-style casino in West Warwick violates the state constitution. The court said the constitution prohibits lotteries not run by the state. It was not immediately clear how the Supreme Court's advisory opinion would affect the question's placement on the ballot.

Meeting the benchmark

TN NASHVILLE — State education officials reported a huge improvement in the number of schools meeting No Child Left Behind benchmarks this year. Eighty-one percent of Tennessee's 1,677 schools succeeded in meeting the standards. The other 19 percent failed at least one of the benchmarks. Last year, 47 percent of Tennessee's schools failed to meet at least one standard.



Mmmm mmmm good Sarah Montey, 6, of Ripon, Wis., chomps on an ear of sweet corn at the Winnebago County Fair in Oshkosh, Wis.



Giddyup! Jennifer Artman, of Orrick, Mo., rides her Arabain horse Dispatcher in a practice arena on the opening day of the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Mo.



No time for play U.S. Forest Service Fire Engineer Keith Orr kicks a soccer ball out of a burned area as he uses a torch to conduct a burnout operation on Elk Trail East Road near Lake Shasta, Calif.



Peek-a-boo

Butcher, a 4-month-old harbor seal found orphaned in Homer, Alaska, in May, swims around its pen at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward.



Airport freedom

A Southwest Airlines plane on the ground at the Corpus Christi, Texas, airport.



Time for a U-turn

A vehicle turns around on a street blocked by a downed tree in Danville, Va., after a suspected tornado caused widespread damage in the city.

Elevator malfunction

NY NEW YORK — A freight elevator suddenly shot upward, crashing into the top bulkhead of a 37-story office building in Times Square and killing one person, authorities said.

Security guard and elevator operator Carl DeClercq, 63, was declared dead at the scene Thursday afternoon, police said.

DeClercq was going down in the elevator at the end of his shift when it shot up and crashed into the bottom of the roof at the 37th floor, authorities said.

After the accident, another elevator carrying two people dropped to the ground floor but the passengers were not injured and were only briefly stranded, police said. It was unclear how far the elevator fell before it stalled.

Serial snuggler sentenced

LA BATON ROUGE — The serial "snuggler" will have to keep his hands to himself.

The man who sneaked into women's apartments just to cuddle with them has been sentenced to five years' probation.

Before pleading guilty earlier this year to 12 counts of unauthorized entry, Steve Danos, 26, led a commendable life, a judge said Wednesday before sentencing him.

None of the victims was hurt. Instead, the intruder roused the residents to ask about a party, helped himself to beer and pizza, folded clothes, made nachos and crawled into one woman's bed to rub her stomach.

Before his arrest, Danos had a more notable claim to fame. He drove in the winning run in the state championship baseball game his senior year at John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge.

Lemonade stand reopened

MO ST. LOUIS — Two seventh-graders are back in business after the city's health commissioner apologized because their lemonade stand had been shut down.

Mim Murray, 10, and Marisa Miller-Stockie, 12, have sold lemonade together for three summers, hoping to save enough for laptop computers before school starts.

But on Tuesday, the girls said, a Health Department inspector told them they didn't have the proper business licenses and were selling unsafe ice cubes. The girls were using powdered lemonade mix with ice cubes bought from a store.

Melba Moore, the city's health commissioner, said temporary food and beverage vendors are supposed to obtain permits, but that doesn't apply to children's lemonade stands.

"It should not have happened. And I apologize," said Moore, who gave the girls \$3 Wednesday for a 25-cent cup of lemonade.

Buggin' about a ghost

MD CHESTERTOWN — A security officer was bugged out when he saw what appeared to be a ghost haunting Kent County Court House.

The suspect spirit turned out to be a bug, the security company

says.

On July 29, for a little more than an hour, a security camera showed a round, translucent, white object that seemed to walk up and down a set of stairs inside the newer wing of the courthouse.

But a self-proclaimed "ghost investigator" wants to have another look.

Beverly Lipsinger, president of the Maryland Ghost & Spirit Association, said the descriptions she's heard don't sound like a bug.

Volunteer meter watchers

CA ARCADIA — The 30-member force of Police Department volunteers is now armed with citation books. The department expanded the duties of its Volunteers in Patrol team to include writing parking tickets for handicap-space and street-sweeping violations. Those duties will soon include all parking violations.

Sgt. Bruce Smith says budget cuts forced the city to get rid of parking control employees years ago.

Off the danger list

SD PIERRE — The black-tailed prairie dog has been dropped from a list of candidates for the federal endangered species list because scientists have concluded the rodents are no longer threatened.

Officials at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday that 18 million prairie dogs live on the Western Plains and no longer require special protection.

Gov. Mike Rounds said the decision helps ranchers whose land has been damaged by the rodents, clearing the way for state officials to control the movement of prairie dogs from federal lands onto private property.

A spokesman for the National Wildlife Federation said the decision is a mistake. The organization requested the listing in 1999.

Armed priest standoff

NY BUFFALO — A retired priest armed with a BB gun was under observation at a hospital after a 4½-hour standoff with police ended peacefully.

Police were called to the home of the Rev. James McGrath after a neighbor spotted McGrath in his backyard holding what appeared to be a rifle.

Church officials and relatives tried to contact the 75-year-old McGrath by phone, but were unsuccessful.

When SWAT team members stormed the front door around 1 p.m., they found McGrath sitting in the living room with a BB gun.

City tries to save AF base

NC GOLDSBORO — Officials are trying to find ways to save Seymour Johnson Air Force Base after they found its closure would cost the local economy \$1 billion. North Carolina has budgeted about \$2 million to keep its six bases safe from the latest round of closings expected to shut down up to a quarter of the nation's 25 military bases. About 4,800 personnel are stationed at the base. Air Force personnel own 2,500 to 3,000 homes in the area.

Stories and photos from wire services



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to mid 70s and tomorrow morning lows in the low 60s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 70s and tomorrow morning lows in the high 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid 80s and tomorrow morning lows in the low 60s.

France: Northern France will be mostly cloudy with rain. Southern France will be partly cloudy. Highs in the high 70s to low 80s and tomorrow morning lows in the low 60s to the low 70s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the high 70s and tomorrow morning lows in the low 60s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the mid to high 70s and tomorrow morning lows in the high 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and tomorrow morning lows in the mid 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and tomorrow morning lows in the mid 60s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low to mid 80s and tomorrow morning lows in the mid 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the high 70s and tomorrow morning lows in the mid to high 50s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the high 60s and tomorrow morning lows in the high 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 70s and tomorrow morning lows in the mid 60s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s to low 90s and tomorrow morning lows in the low 70s.



AFRICA

Cape Town	60	44	Mogadishu	84	70
Dakar	89	78	Nairobi	79	63
Freetown	81	74	Rabat	81	64
Windhoek	84	68	Yaounde	81	64

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	48	40	Manila	86	76
Batavia	110	85	Mexico City	71	56
Beijing	77	61	Montreal	74	66
Almaty	88	75	Riyadh	111	83
Bermuda	82	76	Rio de Jan.	75	63
Calcutta	84	69	Saudi	80	70
Helsinki	72	52	Sofia	74	68
Hong Kong	83	81	Sydney	61	48
London	83	69	Tokyo	89	76

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45
Alaska	55	45	Alaska	55	45



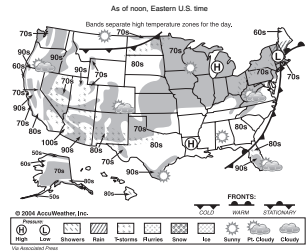
MIDEAST

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://www.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (London)	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0617	0619
Sunset (London)	2020	2018
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2022	2040

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

Your Stars. Your Story. Get it Daily.

STARS AND STRIPES

FACES 'N' PLACES

Oprah to report for jury duty

Oprah Winfrey was expected to make an appearance at the Cook County, Ill., Criminal Court — for jury duty. A spokeswoman for the talk-show host confirmed Friday that Winfrey would report Monday.



Oprah

She is scheduled to appear along with some 300 other prospective jurors, Cook County sheriff's office spokeswoman Sally Daly said Thursday.

Winfrey will not receive special treatment once she's inside the courtroom but will be allowed to use an alternate entrance, Daly said.

"Obviously, due to her popularity and her status, there is the potential if she would come in the front public way — to cause a commotion, confusion or a possible security issue," the spokeswoman said.

If Winfrey isn't picked for a jury by the end of the day, she'll still receive a \$17.20 check from the court, said jury supervisor Allen Klein.

Barbie, the people's choice

Barbie thinks she knows who can make a difference in this year's U.S. presidential race — girls — and she's the one who is going to represent them.

Marie C. Wilson, president and founder of the national, nonpartisan The White House Project, said Barbie's campaign shows girls that they can aspire to the highest levels of leadership, including the presidency.

"Since Barbie is such a large part of girls' lives, we believe it's important to encourage them to become tomorrow's leaders, and Barbie for President sends that message," Wilson said in a statement.

She has pledged a campaign that will concentrate on creating world peace, helping the homeless and poor, and taking care of animals. Her platform was chosen by girls across America through the Barbie.com Web site.

Barbie is the latest of a series of dolls chosen by a nonpartisan The White House Project, said Barbie's campaign shows girls that they can aspire to the highest levels of leadership, including the presidency.

"Since Barbie is such a large part of girls' lives, we believe it's important to encourage them to become tomorrow's leaders, and Barbie for President sends that message," Wilson said in a statement.

Illusionist Roy Horn's injuries evaluated

Nearly a year after being mauled by a tiger, illusionist Roy Horn of "Siegfried & Roy" was evaluated at a hospital that specializes in spinal cord and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation.

Dave Kirvin, a spokesman for Horn, declined to comment on how long Horn was expected to stay or what treatment he was receiving.

Horn arrived at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colo., early last week and was being evaluated Thursday.

Horn was able to walk again in March, five months after being mauled by a 300-pound white tiger in Las Vegas. The tiger attacked him during a sold-out performance at The Mirage hotel-casino.

MGM Mirage officials have said Horn has a long recovery ahead of him, and the duo's long-running show has been closed.

Snoop Dogg sued for \$1 million

Richmond, Va., lawyer Joseph W. Kaestner is nothing if not persistent. And patient.

He filed a lawsuit in October 1997 in Richmond Circuit Court against Calvin Broadus, better known as rapper Snoop Dogg. Kaestner is seeking \$1 million in damages for trauma and humiliation for his client, music promoter Patricia Ann Richardson.

The lawsuit alleges that Snoop tricked Richardson into picking up three FedEx packages at a Petersburg, Va., motel in January 1997.

Richardson contends she didn't know 7 pounds of marijuana was in the packages until police stopped her at Club Florida, a Petersburg establishment where she was promoting one of Snoop's concerts.

No one was arrested, but Richardson was searched, handcuffed and questioned at a Petersburg police station, according to the lawsuit.

Snoop lives in California and appears infrequently in Virginia.

The lawyer took steps that he believes have kept the case alive for almost seven years, and he arranged for the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Department to serve the lawsuit on Snoop when he appeared for a concert in that city Wednesday night.

The rapper has 20 days to file a formal response.

Stories and photos from wire services

What happens when bad boys turn good

Mark Wahlberg is more centered, devoted to daughter

BY TERRY MORROW

Scraps Howard News Service

The evolution of actor Mark Wahlberg from bad boy to good man stems from the company he keeps.

At 33, the actor, rapper and former underwear model says he is centered, devoted to his faith and changing his parting ways. He's father to an 11-month-old girl, and shares custody with the mother, model Rhea Durham. "Ah, there are no more pool parties with my buddies late at night," he says during an interview to promote "Entourage," a new cable-TV comedy he's producing that is based loosely on his early days of success in Hollywood.

"But that's a good thing. I needed something to straighten me out. I had a lot of fun, but I was lucky to get out alive."

"Entourage" is about a New York actor, played by Adrian Grenier, who suddenly finds fame and brings his best buddies with him to Hollywood, where they're all fishes out of water.

His entourage includes the sensible Eric (Kevin Connolly), the vain and dimwitted Johnny Drama (Kevin Dillon) and the party monster Turtle (Jerry Ferrara).

"We knew when we were making this show that Hollywood was the back-droop," says executive producer Doug Ellin. "At first people might see it as just another Hollywood show... but you'll see it's really about friendship and about guys that could go anywhere."

Like the central character, Wahlberg made room for his hometown pals whom he invited to stay with him in Hollywood. Growing up in a household of nine children, Wahlberg says he's used to a full house. He doesn't like being alone.

Having a familiar entourage around was comforting, he says.

The character of Johnny Drama is based on a guy who was hired to be with Wahlberg back in his early days.

"He was hired by my brother to babysit me when I was recording my first album," Wahlberg says. "I had gotten out of jail myself and had a hard time adapting, like a lot of my friends, but I was given another chance."

Wahlberg looks back on his life now and sees how far he's come. The Boston native, raised in a low-income side of town, is not afraid to talk about selling drugs on the streets when he was 13.

He dropped out of high school at age 14. (Later he got his Graduate Equivalency Degree.) And though a priest attempted to help him straighten out, Wahlberg didn't listen.

He got into fight after fight, was charged with misdemeanors and spent 50 days in prison for a robbery gone bad. Life after prison was changed him. His older brother, Donnie, already successful with the boy band New Kids on the Block, helped

him focus him on a music career.

He couldn't sing, but he could rap. Add a DJ, dancers and backup singers and suddenly he was Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch in the early 1990s.

Wahlberg's bad-boy image was enhanced when he stripped to his underwear during concerts. This inspired designer Calvin Klein to use him in controversial ads, wearing next to nothing, on billboards hovering over Times Square.

He made headlines for being involved in fights and run-ins with other celebrities. The tabloids loved him, and the public remained faithful despite rumors he was homophobic and racist, labels he denies.

Friends of Wahlberg's who were not involved to Los Angeles felt surprised.

"Being famous complicates your friendships a lot," Wahlberg says.

"When I would go back home, people who never talked to me before suddenly wanted to become my friends. People who were my friends think I owed them something."

"It's awkward. . . I have been fortunate enough to see other people go through this before I did, and I was able to learn from what happened to them."

By the time the recording career went south and the ad campaign was over, Wahlberg was ready for the movies. In 1994, he made a critical splash in Penny Marshall's "Renaissance Man."

From there, he enhanced his acting résumé with "Boogie Nights," "Three Kings," "The Italian Job" and "Planet of the Apes."

Working in movies taught him how to handle hangers-on.

"When I became an actor, I worked with a lot of big actors, and I saw how they handled things," he says.

Wahlberg says his life changed when he became a father. It gave him perspective. He's also listening to that same priest who has tried to reform him since he was 13.

Today, his entourage includes a nanny, a priest and his mother.

"Now that things have changed for me, I see how it changes my relationships. My best friend is my parish priest. We can talk about everything."

Today, instead of talking about his wild nights, Wahlberg is revealing that changing his daughter's diaper invokes a gag reflex, and he jokes that he'll never allow her to date because no man will be good enough. "I had to give up the entourage and slow down," he says. "I was having a baby, and I was committed to it. So I gave it all up. OK. I went to the nightclub for the country club. But for me, it's a good change of pace."



Horoscope

The Virgo moon pulls our attention to a microscopic level at times. While swimming in a sea of details, don't forget to take in the vast ocean view. It's a big world out there, and if we're too concentrated on our little part of it, we could miss the best experiences. Mercury's retrograde could be blamed for a social faux pas tonight.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 16). In this year of just desserts, the venture you've put so much sweat and tears into will finally pay off! This month and next require you to switch into high gear, continuously biting off more than you can chew — you'll surprise yourself. Singles tie the knot in February. Couples share experiences that help them bond more closely that month, too.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Even though there are endless sources of wisdom available, you're looking for things to be spelled out exactly. But if the universe were really to thunder from the clouds, "Do this!" or "Do that!" you'd definitely shake your fist.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

This day is very much like wildfire season in the high-desert mountains — there's no question that the fires will start; it's just a question of when and where. So be ready to jump to alert, as you will be called to put the fire out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You old day of playing gets to be a real bore. A time for another of your famous "reincarnations." You're so skillful at changing into similar but fresh and exciting versions of yourself that people around you don't even notice.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You're the tower of strength now. A dear friend will probably reach out to you in some passive-aggressive way, letting you know how troubled he or she is. What this person is looking for is a little parental attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You're like a child watching a singalong kiddie program with the bouncing

ball directing your words and timing. Sure, you're accomplishing something, but your heart is just not in it! It's time for a major interruption. Shake it up!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Sometimes, you get a bad rap for being overly critical and having impossibly high standards. But are they really impossibly high? Nature is perfect — no one understands this as well as you do. Stick to what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're getting so entrenched in work that you're in danger of losing who you are and where you're going.

There's nothing quite like the comfort you feel around people who know you well. They'll bring you back to your roots!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Continue to stay alert. People around you are trying their damnest to hide an agenda, but you're a sly one, and nothing gets by you. It's a terrific day for your finances because you respect your money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You're prepared for a few bumps in the road to progress, but nothing prepares you for the internal struggle you face when you're on the cusp of success. Push through! Take the time to reacquaint yourself with you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Normally, a good competition is healthy, but now, you've got too much riding on your work for it to be a fair game. It may be appropriate to put yourself out of a competitive situation. Concentrate on your own productivity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your active lifestyle could cause an overload of nervous energy. This is an opportunity to learn more about how to take care of yourself. There's almost no stress you can't balance through exercise and nutrition.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

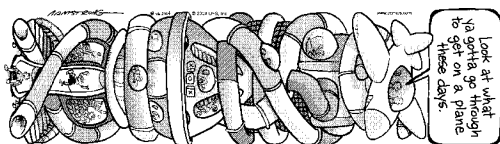
The whirlwind morning leads up to a surprisingly leisurely pace in the afternoon. You could possibly have time to go on the Internet and book travel plans or do catalog shopping. Have your contingency plan ready tonight.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



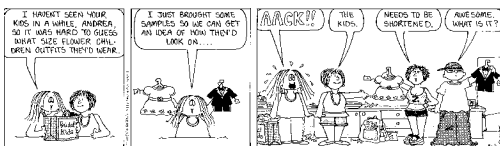
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



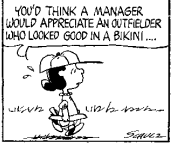
Red and Rover



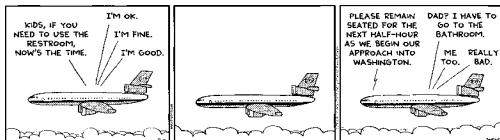
Better or Worse



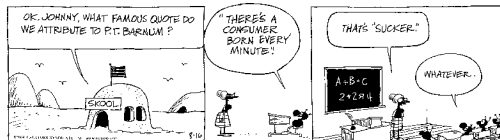
Peanuts



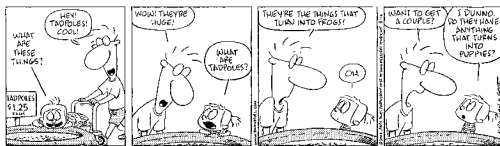
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



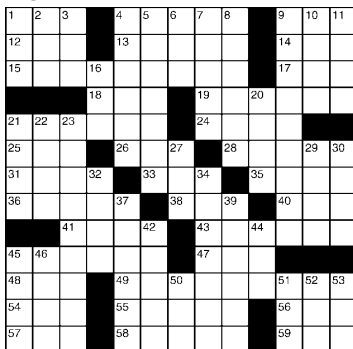
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Throw into the mix
- 2 Type of nose
- 3 Despondent
- 12 Floral wreath
- 13 Bowl over
- 14 Former first daughter
- 15 Clinging strongly
- 17 "Holy cow!"
- 18 Trench
- 19 Leave helpless
- 21 Warning
- 24 A Baldwin
- 25 Past
- 26 Started
- 28 Proclamation
- 31 This follows "Que" twice
- 33 Flop
- 35 Acidic
- 36 Tract of wasteland
- 38 Head of st.
- 40 Where, to Caesar
- 41 Beatnik's "groovy"
- 43 Disturbing sounds
- 45 With hands on hips
- 47 First X or O?
- 48 Writer Buscaglia
- 49 Insolent
- 54 Wildebeest
- 55 "Lather, —, repeat"
- 56 Put to work
- 57 Foolish one
- 58 Trees yielding a yellow-brown wood
- 59 Uncivilized

Down

- 1 Ht.
- 2 Billy — Williams
- 3 "Gunga —"
- 4 Relating to a people
- 5 Left out
- 6 Name in China's history
- 7 California city
- 8 Get snug and cozy
- 9 Wise
- 10 Congregational shout
- 11 Went blond
- 16 Mimic
- 20 Cincinnati ball team
- 21 Method of payment
- 22 Screenwriter
- 23 Insatiable
- 27 Used a shovel
- 29 Rubik's baffler
- 30 Speaker of baseball lore
- 32 Teeny bit
- 34 "I'd rather not talk about it"
- 37 Capital of Tasmania
- 39 Tenor and alto
- 42 Comedian
- 43 Anderson
- 44 Here (Fr.)
- 45 Plankton component
- 46 Writer Kesey and others
- 50 It may be recombinant
- 51 "— Town"
- 52 Dos Passos trilogy
- 53 Wildie a needle

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-16

CRYPTOQUIP

SV TIKWW FDZFWN VZDSL
IKGNT ARD MNPRIN CKBA.
S ZNPGRB ARD IDTL MN

FWDI PZKCA!

Saturday's Cryptoquip: CERTAIN BIRDS BUILD CLIFFSIDE NESTS. IT MUST MEAN THEY LOVE LIVING ON THE EDGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals L

'Acting out' a difference of opinion

Dear Abby: I am 16 years old and a ward of the court.

I have a horrible social worker who never looks at all of the positive things I do. I have good grades and barely ever do anything wrong. Recently I have been doing things that they call "acting out." I am not acting out! At our last court appearance, her report stated that I'm a juvenile delinquent who is in need of serious help. I am consistently told by the people at the group home where I live that I am none of those things.

How do I tell my social worker that she needs to see the positive things I am doing and not just look at the negative? Please help me. I am going nuts. I need to know if it is me or her.

— Confused in Redwood City, Calif.

Dear Confused: It's possible that the problem isn't all yours or all hers, but a combination of

both. The caseload social workers must manage these days is overwhelming, which means that, much as they might wish otherwise, they are often unable to give each client a lot of personal attention.

"Acting out" is misbehaving and expressing angry feelings in inappropriate ways. When a child is separated from home, school, family and friends, that's a good reason to be angry. However, if you and the people at your group home feel that the social worker is mistaken, then the administrator should write a letter to the court explaining that fact. I'm sure the judge would take it into consideration. (I know I would.)

P.S. — If the social worker thinks you need "serious help" — which I assume to mean psychological counseling — go for it. Almost everyone can benefit

from having a trained person listen to his or her concerns, pains and problems. It is considered to be a huge benefit, not a punishment.

Dear Abby: What is the rule of etiquette concerning guest lists that include both friends and co-workers? Does one have to invite all co-workers to a private/personal function, or can a select handful of co-workers be invited?

— Needs Advice, Latham, N.Y.
Dear Needs Advice: Much depends upon the size of your office, how many co-workers you plan to ask, and what percentage will be excluded. If you invite only a few co-workers, it's important that you not offend the rest. This can be accomplished by keeping the invitation private, separate from work, and confidential.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



Depression comes in many forms

Dear Annie: Eight years ago, my son's father shot himself in front of me. I was five months pregnant at the time. I went for counseling, but it didn't seem to help, and lately, it has been bothering me a great deal.

My son has begun asking questions about his father and how he died. I don't know what to tell him. I feel he is too young for the vivid details. However, his constant questions make me irritated and impatient. I am married to a wonderful guy, and it is unfair to my son and my husband that I have these "mood swings." My problem is not their fault.

A friend suggested I may have post-traumatic stress syndrome. Is there anything I can do about it?

— Unhappy in Virginia

Dear Virginia: You may indeed be suffering from delayed-response post-traumatic stress disorder. You witnessed a

horrifying event, and your son's questions remind you of it. Ask your doctor to recommend a therapist who can properly evaluate you. Treatment can include psychotherapy and medication. For more information, call the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Alliance (ptsaalliance.org) at 1-877-507-PTSD (1-877-507-7873).

Dear Annie: I am compelled to respond to "Concerned Mom," whose son, "Danny," suffered from depression, and she thought he was getting worse. She asked if he should go visit him, even though her husband said it was interference. Thank you for telling her to trust her gut.

Last year, I was depressed. I thought I hated my job. I became withdrawn and sad, and grew very confused. I asked a doctor and began taking antidepressants, but I didn't get better. My condition deteriorated to the

point where I couldn't get out of bed. I thought I was losing my mind.

After months of decline, I finally was diagnosed with a large brain tumor. I now know that the symptoms of a brain tumor can often mirror that of depression. My mother was on the one flew 2,000 miles on a mission to get to the bottom of my condition. Thank God she did. Annie, tell your readers who are depressed also to have a complete physical. I am now on my way to a full and complete recovery. I pray this was for Danny.

— Getting Better in California

Dear California: Thank you for reminding our readers that depression can mask other physical symptoms that need treatment. Bless your mother for intuitively knowing that her child needed her, and for taking the necessary action.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FLATA

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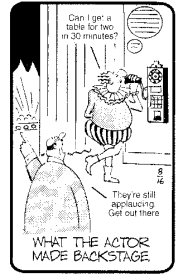
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Angrin



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: A

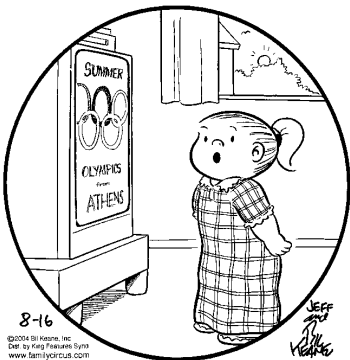
Answers tomorrow

Saturday's

Jumbles: TYING FUDGE SO/REE MARTYR

Answer: When the police chief announced his crime crackdown, his remarks were — "ARRESTING"

Family Circus



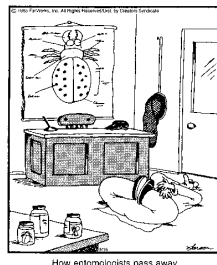
"Why does Athens have its afternoon so early in the morning?"



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



IN THE WORLD

Aleged militant statement threatens Italy

BY MAAMOUN YOUSSEF

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — A statement released Sunday in the name of an al-Qaida-linked group said the Italian government has "dug its grave by its own hands" after it ignored a warning to withdraw its troops from Iraq by Aug. 15.

The statement, signed by the Abu-Hafs al-Masri Brigades, said any target in Italy is valid for militants because the European country did not withdraw its approximate 3,000 troops from Iraq.

However, there was no way to authenticate the statement, which appeared on an Islamic Web site known as a clearinghouse for militant-related material. On its own site, Abu-Hafs al-Masri Brigades has denied giving the Aug. 15 ultimatum to Italy.

"Today, we have declared a bloody war and the earth will be shaken under the feet of any Italian," said the statement, dated Sunday.

Al-Qaida-linked group says nation will face attacks after failing to pull troops from Iraq

"After our cells start moving to implement the mission, we call on all of them to strike any target that appears before them in Italy until the government responds to the withdrawal from Iraq," it said.

The statement said Italy would not have security "until security becomes real in Iraq."

Sunday's statement said Italy's silence "has proven to the world that there is no difference between a civilian or a military person in Italy."

"The Italian government has dug its own grave by its own hands after it followed America, the head of infidelity, and it stayed in Iraq without any regard to the blood spilled in Iraq every day, therefore, it

is responsible for all the blood which will be spilled in Italy."

It is unclear who the actual authors of the threatening statements are. The numerous online claims and counterclaims illustrate the difficulties of determining the authenticity of Web threats or whether those who post them have any ability to carry them out.

The first threat with a deadline was sent Aug. 1 to the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Quds Al-Arabi, warning Italy to pull its soldiers out of Iraq within 15 days or face "waves of earthquakes." On Aug. 7, another statement in the name of the Brigades renewed the threat.

But on Aug. 3, Abu Hafs al-Masri Bri-

gades posted a statement on its own Web site denying that it had given Italy a 15-day ultimatum to leave Iraq.

As the deadline expired, Italy's top domestic security official said Italians were reacting calmly to the threats.

"The Italians aren't changing their habits and thus they respond, in the most composed manner, to the relentless campaign of media statements, the latest of which arrived today, which aim to amplify the threat of Islamic terrorism," Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisani said.

Conservative Premier Silvio Berlusconi has said Italy's troops will continue their mission in Iraq, which includes reconstruction projects and security.

The Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigade takes its name from a top al-Qaida lieutenant who was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Afghanistan in 2001. It has claimed responsibility for several attacks on Western targets, including the March 11 train bombings in Madrid.



Pope John Paul II towels off Sunday before praying at the Virgin Mary shrine in Lourdes, southwestern France, prior to his departure for Rome.

Sickly pope celebrates Mass at Lourdes shrine

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON

The Associated Press

LOURDES, France — A frail Pope John Paul II, breathing heavily and gasping at times, celebrated an open-air Mass on Sunday for several hundred thousand pilgrims, many in wheelchairs, at a shrine to the Virgin Mary that is associated with miraculous cures.

At one point he said "help me" in Polish while struggling through his homily in French. Aides brought him a glass of water, and he said he wanted to complete his remarks.

He did, although skipping several sections, and raised his voice to express "special affection" for the sick.

The crowd applauded at times to encourage him. The 84-year-old pope has Parkinson's disease and crippling hip and knee ailments.

He also drew cheers for his message — condemnations of materialism and secularism, and a call for women to reject abortion, saying that life must "be respected from conception to its natural end."

The Mass was a highlight of the Pope's two-day visit to Lourdes, a town in the Pyrenees where Roman Catholic tradition says St. Bernadette saw visions of Mary in a grotto in 1858.

Officials said they expected 300,000 people, and the figure appeared on mark as worshippers jammed into the field to await the pope.

The Lourdes shrine — a craggy indentation in a cliff where the Roman Catholics pray and light candles — has special meaning for the sick. Thousands of people have claimed to be healed by an underground spring here, and the church has recognized 66 of the claims as miracles.

The Vatican says that the 84-year-old pope is not in Lourdes to seek a cure for his Parkinson's disease and crippling knee and hip problems.

The pope's trip commemorates the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception, the dogma that says Mary was born without original sin.



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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



Sgt. 1st Class Bret Erickson of the United States shoots in the Trap competition at the Markopoule shooting venue during the 2004 Olympics Games on Sunday. Erickson, a shooter with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Ga., finished 13th overall in the event with 118 points.

COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/KEIT

Aussie Carrigan sneaks by leader to win cycling gold

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Judith Arndt looked left. Sara Carrigan went to the right — and right past her.

Carrigan snuck past Arndt in the final straightaway Sunday to win the gold medal in the Olympic road cycling race through downtown Athens. The Australian — who, in her biography, lists Arndt as her idol — finished the race in three hours, 24 minutes, 24 seconds.

Kristin Armstrong of the United States finished eighth, marking only the third top-10 finish by an American in the race since Connie Carpenter-Phinney and Rebecca Twigg won gold and silver for the United States 20 years ago at Los Angeles in the event's Olympic debut.

Armstrong's U.S. teammates, Christine Thorburn and Dede Barry, hit the finish together in 15th and 16th places, respectively, 1:18 behind Carrigan. All three Americans were competing in the Olympics for the first time.

The only other Olympic cycling medal for U.S. women came four years ago in Sydney, where Mari Holden won silver in the time trial. Barry and Thorburn, the reigning U.S. time trial champion, will ride in the event Wednesday.

Russia's Olga Sivtseva won a frantic sprint to take home the bronze medal, edging Australia's Oneone Wood and Dutch rider Mirjam Melchers.

Carrigan and Arndt, a top German rider, were among a group of seven riders who held an 18-second lead over the nearest chase pack entering the final lap. Carrigan broke away. Arndt quickly followed and the pair soon had a 20-second lead over

the field, which by then was racing for bronze.

Entering the final half-mile, Carrigan drafted off Arndt, waiting to make one final move. It came when Arndt looked over her left shoulder to see where she was. And by then, she was gone, quickly darting right and accelerating through the finish line. Arndt finished 7 seconds back.

Defending gold medalist Leonien Zijlstra-van Moorsel of the Netherlands — a winner of three golds in Sydney — fell near the end of the seventh lap in the nine-lap race, ending her chances to repeat. She swept the road race, the time trial and the individual pursuit in the 2000 Games.

She sat on the road for several minutes before being taken to a hospital for evaluation. It wasn't immediately known if she'd be able to ride in the time trial.

Fencing

Women's epee: Defending champion Timea Nagy of Hungary held on to the gold medal, defeating Laura Flessel-Colovic of France 15-12 in the final.

Flessel-Colovic's silver medal gives her a complete set. She took gold in Atlanta and bronze in Sydney.

It was also Hungary versus France in the bronze medal match, but this time the French came out on top as Maureen Nisman defeated Ilidko Minca 15-12.

Judo

Men's 66kg: Masato Uchishiba of Japan ended nearly a decade of Japan's frustration in the weight class by defeating Zvezlana Krnac of Slovakia in the final.

Georgi Georgiev of Bulgaria and Yordanis Arencibia Verdecia of Cuba shared the bronze.

Women's 52kg: China's Xian Dongmei stopped a Japanese judo streak by beating Yuki Yoko-

sawa of Japan.

Xian's gold is the first by a non-Japanese in judo after two days and four events.

World champion Amariyus Savon of Cuba and Ise Heylen of Belgium earned bronze.

Shooting

Men's trap: Alexei Alipov of Russia won the event with a perfect final round.

Alipov shot all 25 targets in the final to finish with an overall score of 149, tying the Olympic record. In the qualifying round, Alipov also matched an Olympic record, scoring 124 out of a possible 125. Both records were set in Atlanta by Michael Diamond of Australia.

Scores from the qualifying round are added to scores from the final to determine the winner.

Alipov finished three points ahead of Italy's Giovanni Pellielo, who won the silver. Adam Vella of Australia took the bronze with a 145.

American Lance Bled of Vancouver, Wash., who won a bronze medal in trap in Atlanta in 1996, finished fifth. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bret Erickson finished 13th.

Women's 10m air pistol: Olena Kostevych of Ukraine won the gold in women's 10-meter air pistol after a shoot-off. After 10 shots in the final round, and 40 shots in qualifying, Kostevych and Jasna Sekaric of Serbia-Montenegro were tied at 483.3. In the one-shot tiebreaker, Kostevych shot a 10.2 to Sekaric's 9.4 to win.

In the bronze-medal shoot-off, Bulgaria's Maria Grozeva shot a 10.4, while China's Ren Jie shot a 9.7. They had been tied at 482.3, one point behind Kostevych and Sekaric.

Libby Callahan, a staff sergeant in the Army Reserve who at age 52 is the oldest U.S. athlete competing in Athens, was 30th.

Williams, Roddick open with easy wins

By Howard Fendrich
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Venus Williams knows all about Olympic success. Andy Roddick got his first taste of it Sunday.

Bothered more by the wind and her wrist wrap than her opponent, defending gold medalist Williams overpowered Melinda Cink of Hungary 6-1, 6-2 before mostly small crowds on the opening day of the Olympic tennis tournament.

Roddick made his Olympic debut with a 6-3, 7-6 (4) victory over Flavio Saretta of Brazil, swatting 12 aces and 16 service winners.

The biggest upset Sunday was No. 4 Tim Henman's 6-3, 6-3 loss to Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, while No. 11 Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina was upset by Max Mirnyi of Belarus 3-6, 7-6 (0), 6-4.

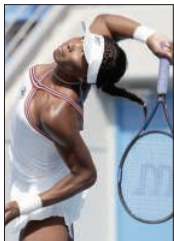
Marat Safin had a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Karol Kucera of Slovakia. Safin lost in the first round at the Sydney Games right after winning the 2000 U.S. Open title.

Other winners included No. 5 Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, No. 14 Nicolas Kiefer of Germany, and No. 16 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, Roddick's potential tennis rival.

The arena looked to be a quarter full for Justine Henin-Hardenne's 6-3, 6-4 victory over Barbara Strýcova of the Czech Republic, but fans might have had trouble keeping track of who was leading. The scoreboard didn't work from early in the first set until early in the second.

After getting broken to start the match, the top-ranked Belgian looked good in her first match since losing in the French Open's second round.

In other women's play, No. 8 Ai



Venus Williams defeated Hungary's Melinda Cink 6-1, 6-2 on centre court at the Olympic tennis complex in Athens on Sunday.

Sugiyama of Japan outlasted Zheng Jie of China 4-6, 6-3, 8-6 in a 21-2-hour match suspended for 10 minutes after the second set because of heat. No. 10 Patty Schnyder of Switzerland and No. 11 Francesca Schiavone of Italy won.

Only about 500 spectators were on hand at the 8,000-seat center court for the start of Williams' first outing in this at the last Olympics and so much shade and then to be here is amazing," said the sixth-seeded Williams, who also won the doubles title in Sydney.

"I'm playing well, I'm playing smart, and I'm also really happy because I've been doing everything my coaches asked me to in the last week."

U.S. rowers set world records during preliminary rounds

The Associated Press

SCHINIAS, Greece — America's Olympic rowers arrived in Greece saying they were ready for the rough conditions created by the rowing venue, even made lake outside Athens. Turns out they were right.

With a tail wind packing gusts of up to 20 mph, both the U.S. men's and women's eight broke world records and won tough preliminary heats Sunday.

No records will fall Monday, however. Forecasts of even stronger winds prompted organizers to postpone those races.

Organizers hoped to move Monday's races to Tuesday, when forecasters predicted the wind will die down enough for racing.

The American women's eight won in one lap, eclipsing the previous world mark of 5:57.02 set by Romania in 1999. They advance directly to next Sunday's final.

The American women, who have won both World Cup races they entered this year, have been strong the past three years. They won the world championship in 2002, but suffered an uncharacteristic mistake in last year's worlds when they caught an oar and brought the boat to a halt. Germany finished first in that race, Romania second.

The U.S. men's eight was third after the start. At half distance they were up to second place, about eight-tenths of a second behind Canada, then pulled ahead at the end to win by .6. The Americans finished in 5:19.85, easily beating the mark of 5:22.80, set by the Netherlands in 1999.

"I know the strength of our boat in a complete race, so there was never any panic," said oarsman Wyatt Allen, of Portland, Maine.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

S. Africa relay win ends Phelps' bid for 8

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — South Africa spoiled the expected duel between the United States and Australia in the 400-meter freestyle relay Sunday night, winning the gold medal in world-record time and assuring that Michael Phelps won't surpass Mark Spitz's record of seven Olympic golds.

The best Phelps can do is tie Spitz after the Aussies were a stumping from a swimming in 3 minutes, 13.17 seconds. The Netherlands took silver at 3:14.36, while Phelps and his American teammates could manage only bronze at 3:14.62.

It was the worst showing ever for the Americans, who had never lost an Olympic 400 free relay until they were upset by the Australians at the 2000 Sydney Games, with both teams breaking the previous world record.

The Aussie mark of 3:13.67 was shattered by the South African team of Roland Schoeman, Lyndon Ferns, Darian Townsend and Ryk Neethling. Schoeman went out strong, and Neethling closed it out with an amazing 47.91 on the final lap.

The Americans were doomed by Ian Crocker's dismal start. He went out in 50.05 — the worst 100 of any swimmer —

and left his teammates with a margin they could not make up.

Phelps went second and got the Americans up to sixth with a time of 48.74. Neil Walker and Jason Lezak tied for second to catch the South Africans, to no avail. Swimming the anchor, Lezak expended so much energy on his first 50 that he was passed by Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands at the wall.

At least the Americans got a medal. The Australians were a disappointing sixth, unable to catch up even with Ian Thorpe swimming the anchor leg.

Using the same team in the morning, the South Africans nearly set a world record in the preliminaries with a time of 3:13.84.

The American team of Gabe Woodward, Nate Dusing, Neil Walker and Gary Hall Jr. was second in 3:15.83, with Italy third in 3:16.18.

In a hint of their troubles to come, Australia was only the sixth-fastest qualifier, tied with France at 3:17.64.

The American coaches put Phelps on the team at the expense of Hall, an eight-time Olympic champion who has griped that U.S. coaches were giving Phelps special treatment in his bid to break Spitz's 1972 record from the Munich Games.

Hall didn't even show up for the final to cheer his teammates on. Woodward and Dusing were in the Americans contingent.

In individual events, Kosuke Kitajima of Japan got the upper hand on American Brendan Hansen at just the right time, winning gold in the 100-meter breaststroke.

Kitajima set a world record at last year's world championships in Barcelona, only to have the mark snatched away by Hansen at last month's U.S. Olympic trials.

Neither came close to breaking Hansen's record (59.30 seconds) on a windy night at the Athens pool. But Kitajima was fast enough, capturing the gold in 1:00.08. Hansen, who led slightly at the turn, faded to second in 1:00.25.

Hansen actually went faster in the semifinals, setting an Olympic record of 1:00.01. He couldn't match it in the final, when the weather took a turn from the sweltering temperatures of the first day.

Hugues Duboscq of France took the bronze at 1:00.88.

Laure Manaudou of France won the women's 400-meter freestyle in 4 minutes, 53.4 seconds. Otylia Jedrzejczak of Poland took the silver in 4:05.84. Katlin Sandeno of Lake Forest, Calif., won bronze in 4:06.19.

Petra Thomas of Australia upset defend-

ing Olympic champion Inge de Bruijn in the 100-meter butterfly, while American Jenny Thompson was once again denied an individual gold.

De Bruijn, the 30-year-old Dutch star, went out strong and was ahead of world-record pace at the turn. But she faded in the final 50, getting passed by both Thomas and Otylia Jedrzejczak of Poland.

Thomas won gold in 57.72 seconds, off the pace of de Bruijn's world record swim (56.61) at the 2000 Sydney Games. But the Aussie wasn't concerned with time, finally getting gold after taking silver in Atlanta eight years ago and bronze at Sydney.

Jedrzejczak took silver in 57.84, while de Bruijn settled for bronze at 57.99.

The 31-year-old Thompson was denied her 12th Olympic medal when she touched the wall fifth in 58.72. She shares the career record for swimming medals — including eight golds from relays — with Mark Spitz, Matt Biondi and Carl Osburn.

Thompson helped the United States win a silver behind Australia in the 400 freestyle relay Saturday. But her only individual medals in three previous Olympics are silver and bronze, both in the 100 freestyle.

Her last chance for individual gold comes in the 50 free, but she's not considered a strong contender.

Fernandez masters foe in U.S. shutout

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Lisa Fernandez and the U.S. softball team showed no mercy — again.

Fernandez allowed one hit and the Americans dominated their old Olympic nemesis Australia, blowing out the two-time

bronze medalists 10-0 Sunday in a game called after five innings because the Aussies were too far behind.

International rules state a game ends whenever a team trails by seven runs or more after five innings — the so-called slaughter rule.

This one certainly qualified. After an eight-run fourth inning, Fernandez had to do as she

got three outs in the fifth to finish off Australia (1-1), the only team to beat the United States twice in Olympic competition. Both times, Fernandez was the loser.

Stacey Nuveman hit a three-run homer off Melanie Roche to cap the Americans' big fourth-inning. Her shot to center sent the U.S. bench into a frenzy and put a shiver through the rest of the eight-team field.

The United States (2-0), seeking its third straight gold medal, has won its first two games in Greece by a combined 17-0 score with both ending via the mercy rule. The Americans beat Italy on Saturday.

Iranian judo champ out

International judo officials are investigating whether a two-time champion from Iran who reportedly said he wouldn't fight an Israeli opponent deliberately avoid-

ed the bout Sunday by showing up overweight.

Arash Miresmaeili, a favorite in the 66kg class, was declared overweight at the morning weigh-in and disqualified for his first-round bout against Ehud Vaks.

After Thursday's draw, the Iranian press agency IRNA quoted Miresmaeili as saying, "I refused to play against an Israeli rival to sympathize with the oppressed Palestinian people."

Iran does not recognize Israel and bans any contact with the Jewish state.

The International Judo Federation met to consider the circumstances around the disqualification and will meet again Monday, said federation spokesman Michel Brousse.

Miresmaeili was world judo champion in 2001 and 2003 and finished fifth at the Sydney Olympics. He carried the Iranian flag at Friday's opening ceremony.

U.S. women's gymnasts in second after qualifying

The U.S. women's gymnastics teams stumbled to the finish of its qualifying round Sunday, botching the final two events to drop more than a half-point behind Romania. The Romanians finished with 152.436 points, while the Americans scored 151.848.

The top eight teams advance and to Tuesday's team final. Based on the preliminaries, the gold medal is a shot away between the United States, the reigning world champions, and the Romanians, who won gold four years ago in Sydney.

Russia is third with 149.420 points. China, another medal favorite, competed later Sunday.

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Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League										National League										MLB Leaders																			
East Division					Central Division					West Division					Southwest Division					National League East					National League Central														
W	L	Pct	GB	Diff	W	L	Pct	GB	Diff	W	L	Pct	GB	Diff	W	L	Pct	GB	Diff	W	L	Pct	GB	Diff	W	L	Pct	GB	Diff										
New York	64	1	567	10th	Minnesota	63	54	31	1st	Los Angeles	62	55	33	1st	San Francisco	61	56	32	1st	St. Louis	60	57	31	1st	Atlanta	59	58	30	1st	Philadelphia	58	59	29	1st					
Boston	59	12	327	10th	Detroit	52	56	9	2nd	Oakland	51	59	29	2nd	Seattle	50	60	28	2nd	Chicago	49	61	27	2nd	Pittsburgh	48	62	26	2nd	Cincinnati	47	63	25	2nd	San Diego	46	64	24	2nd
Tampa Bay	54	18	242	10th	Chicago	47	71	32	3rd	San Diego	46	72	33	3rd	Los Angeles	45	73	32	3rd	San Francisco	44	74	31	3rd	St. Louis	43	75	30	3rd	Atlanta	42	76	29	3rd	Philadelphia	41	77	28	3rd
Seattle	49	23	169	10th	St. Louis	46	72	34	4th	San Francisco	45	73	33	4th	Los Angeles	44	74	32	4th	San Francisco	43	75	31	4th	St. Louis	42	76	30	4th	Atlanta	41	77	29	4th	Philadelphia	40	78	28	4th
Los Angeles	47	23	169	10th	Kansas City	45	73	37	5th	Pittsburgh	44	74	37	5th	San Francisco	43	75	36	5th	St. Louis	42	76	35	5th	Atlanta	41	77	34	5th	Philadelphia	40	78	33	5th	Cincinnati	39	79	32	5th
San Francisco	46	24	164	10th	Philadelphia	44	74	37	6th	Colorado	43	75	36	6th	San Francisco	42	76	35	6th	St. Louis	41	77	34	6th	Atlanta	40	78	33	6th	Philadelphia	39	79	32	6th	Cincinnati	38	80	31	6th
Oakland	45	25	161	10th	Pittsburgh	43	75	36	7th	San Francisco	42	76	35	7th	Los Angeles	41	77	34	7th	St. Louis	40	78	33	7th	Atlanta	39	79	32	7th	Philadelphia	38	80	31	7th	Cincinnati	37	81	30	7th
Chicago	44	26	158	10th	Colorado	42	76	35	8th	San Francisco	41	77	34	8th	St. Louis	40	78	33	8th	Atlanta	39	79	32	8th	Philadelphia	38	80	31	8th	Cincinnati	37	81	30	8th	San Diego	36	82	29	8th
San Diego	43	27	155	10th	San Francisco	41	77	34	9th	Los Angeles	40	78	33	9th	St. Louis	39	79	32	9th	Atlanta	38	80	31	9th	Philadelphia	37	81	30	9th	Cincinnati	36	82	29	9th	San Diego	35	83	28	9th
Arizona	42	28	152	10th	San Diego	39	79	32	10th	San Francisco	38	80	31	10th	St. Louis	37	80	30	10th	Atlanta	36	81	29	10th	Philadelphia	35	82	28	10th	Cincinnati	34	83	27	10th	San Diego	34	84	26	10th
San Diego	41	29	149	10th	San Francisco	38	80	31	11th	Los Angeles	37	81	30	11th	St. Louis	36	82	29	11th	Atlanta	35	83	28	11th	Philadelphia	34	84	27	11th	Cincinnati	33	85	26	11th	San Diego	33	86	25	11th
Los Angeles	40	30	146	10th	San Diego	37	81	30	12th	San Francisco	36	82	29	12th	St. Louis	35	83	28	12th	Atlanta	34	84	27	12th	Philadelphia	33	85	26	12th	Cincinnati	32	86	25	12th	San Diego	32	87	24	12th
San Francisco	39	31	143	10th	San Diego	36	82	29	13th	Los Angeles	35	83	28	13th	St. Louis	34	84	27	13th	Atlanta	33	85	26	13th	Philadelphia	32	86	25	13th	Cincinnati	31	87	24	13th	San Diego	31	88	23	13th
San Diego	38	32	140	10th	San Francisco	35	84	28	14th	Los Angeles	34	84	27	14th	St. Louis	33	85	26	14th	Atlanta	32	86	25	14th	Philadelphia	31	87	24	14th	Cincinnati	30	88	23	14th	San Diego	30	89	22	14th
Los Angeles	37	33	137	10th	San Francisco	34	85	27	15th	San Diego	33	85	26	15th	St. Louis	32	86	25	15th	Atlanta	31	87	24	15th	Philadelphia	30	88	23	15th	Cincinnati	29	89	22	15th	San Diego	29	90	21	15th
San Francisco	36	34	134	10th	San Diego	33	86	25	16th	Los Angeles	32	86	25	16th	St. Louis	31	87	24	16th	Atlanta	30	88	23	16th	Philadelphia	29	89	22	16th	Cincinnati	28	90	21	16th	San Diego	28	91	20	16th
San Diego	35	35	131	10th	San Francisco	33	86	25	17th	San Diego	31	87	24	17th	St. Louis	30	88	23	17th	Atlanta	29	89	22	17th	Philadelphia	28	90	21	17th	Cincinnati	27	91	20	17th	San Diego	27	92	19	17th
Los Angeles	34	36	128	10th	San Francisco	32	87	24	18th	San Diego	30	88	23	18th	St. Louis	29	89	22	18th	Atlanta	28	90	21	18th	Philadelphia	27	91	20	18th	Cincinnati	26	92	19	18th	San Diego	26	93	18	18th
San Francisco	33	37	125	10th	San Diego	31	89	22	19th	Los Angeles	29	89	22	19th	St. Louis	28	90	21	19th	Atlanta	27	91	20	19th	Philadelphia	26	92	19	19th	Cincinnati	25	93	18	19th	San Diego	25	94	17	19th
San Diego	32	38	122	10th	San Francisco	31	89	22	20th	San Diego	28	90	21	20th	St. Louis	27	91	20	20th	Atlanta	26	92	19	20th	Philadelphia	25	93	18	20th	Cincinnati	24	94	17	20th	San Diego	24	95	16	20th
Los Angeles	31	39	119	10th	San Francisco	30	90	21	21st	San Diego	27	91	20	21st	St. Louis	26	92	19	21st	Atlanta	25	93	18	21st	Philadelphia	24	94	17	21st	Cincinnati	23	95	16	21st	San Diego	23	96	15	21st
San Francisco	30	40	116	10th	San Diego	26	92	19	22nd	Los Angeles	26	92	19	22nd	St. Louis	25	93	18	22nd	Atlanta	24	94	17	22nd	Philadelphia	23	95	16	22nd	Cincinnati	22	96	15	22nd	San Diego	22	97	14	22nd
San Diego	29	41	113	10th	San Francisco	25	93	18	23rd	San Diego	25	93	18	23rd	St. Louis	24	94	17	23rd	Atlanta	23	95	16	23rd	Philadelphia	22	96	15	23rd	Cincinnati	21	97	14	23rd	San Diego	21	98	13	23rd
Los Angeles	28	42	110	10th	San Francisco	24	94	17	24th	San Diego	24	94	17	24th	St. Louis	23	95	16	24th	Atlanta	22	96	15	24th	Philadelphia	21	97	14	24th	Cincinnati	20	98	13	24th	San Diego	20	99	12	24th
San Francisco	27	43	107	10th	San Diego	23	95	16	25th	Los Angeles	23	95	16	25th	St. Louis	22	96	15	25th	Atlanta	21	97	14	25th	Philadelphia	20	98	13	25th	Cincinnati	19	99	12	25th	San Diego	19	100	11	25th
San Diego	26	44	104	10th	San Francisco	23	95	16	26th	San Diego	22	96	15	26th	St. Louis	21	97	14	26th	Atlanta	20	98	13	26th	Philadelphia	19	99	12	26th	Cincinnati	18	100	10	26th	San Diego	18	101	9	26th
Los Angeles	25	45	101	10th	San Francisco	22	96	15	27th	San Diego	21	97	14	27th	St. Louis	20	98	13	27th	Atlanta	19	99	12	27th	Philadelphia	18	100	10	27th	Cincinnati	17	101	9	27th	San Diego	17	102	8	27th
San Francisco	24	46	98	10th	San Diego	21	97	14	28th	Los Angeles	20	98	13	28th	St. Louis	19	99	12	28th	Atlanta	18	100	10	28th	Philadelphia	17	101	9	28th	Cincinnati	16	102	8	28th	San Diego	16	103	7	28th
San Diego	23	47	95	10th	San Francisco	20	99	12	29th	San Diego	19	99	12	29th	St. Louis	18	100	10	29th	Atlanta	17	101	9	29th	Philadelphia	16	102	8	29th	Cincinnati	15	103	7	29th	San Diego	15	104	6	29th
Los Angeles	22	48	92	10th	San Francisco	19	100	10	30th	San Diego	18	100	10	30th	St. Louis	17	101	9	30th	Atlanta	16	102	8	30th	Philadelphia	15	103	7	30th	Cincinnati	14	104	5	30th	San Diego	14	105	5	30th
San Francisco	21	49	89	10th	San Diego	18	101	9	31st	Los Angeles	17	101	9	31st	St. Louis	16	102	8	31st	Atlanta	15	103	7	31st	Philadelphia	14	104	5	31st	Cincinnati	13	105	4	31st	San Diego	13	106	4	31st
San Diego	20	50	86	10th	San Francisco	17	102	8	32nd	San Diego	16	102	8	32nd	St. Louis	15	103	7	32nd	Atlanta	14	104	5	32nd	Philadelphia	13	105	4	32nd	Cincinnati	12	106	3	32nd	San Diego	12	107	3	32nd
Los Angeles	19	51	83	10th	San Francisco	16	103	7	33rd	San Diego	15	103	7	33rd	St. Louis	14	104	5	33rd	Atlanta	13	105	4	33rd	Philadelphia	12	106	3	33rd	Cincinnati	11	107	2	33rd	San Diego	11	108	2	33rd
San Francisco	18	52	80	10th	San Diego	15	104	5	34th	Los Angeles	14	104	5	34th	St. Louis	13	105	4	34th	Atlanta	12	106	3	34th	Philadelphia	11	107	2	34th	Cincinnati	10	108	1	34th	San Diego	10	109	1	34th
San Diego	17	53	77	10th	San Francisco	14	105	4	35th	San Diego	13	105	4	35th	St. Louis	12	106	3	35th	Atlanta	11	107	2	35th	Philadelphia	10	108	1	35th	Cincinnati	9	109	0	35th	San Diego	9	110	0	35th
Los Angeles	16	54	74	10th	San Francisco	13	106	3	36th	San Diego	12	106	3	36th	St. Louis	11	107	2	36th	Atlanta	10	108	1	36th	Philadelphia	9	109	0	36th	Cincinnati	8	110	0	36th	San Diego	8	111	0	36th
San Francisco	15	55	71																																				

Indians rockin' at home

Twins' lead cut to one game in AL Central race

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — A packed stadium. A pennant chase. It's just like the good old days at Jacobs Field.

This time it's Victor Martinez and Travis Hafner pounding teams, instead of Albert Belle and Jim Thome.

Playing in front of their first sellout crowd (40,942) since Opening Day, the Indians pulled within one game of the AL Central

AL Roundup

lead, scoring four runs in the first inning and beating Minnesota 7-1 Saturday night.

"We are their whipping boy right now and we don't like that," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said.

The Indians have not had a piece of the division lead this late in the season since 2001.

Cleveland has won six straight and 10 of 11, gaining seven games on the Twins in 10 days. Minnesota, which has lost eight of 10, has a season-high six-game lead over the Indians and Chicago White Sox after last Sunday's games.

"They're a great team. We know that," Indians pitcher Jake Westbrook said of the Twins. "We've just come out real strong early on them and been able to hold them off."



Tampa Bay's Joey Gathright is tagged out by Texas shortstop Michael Young, left, during a rundown in the second inning of Saturday's game.

Westbrook (11-5) won for the fifth time in six starts, giving up one run and five hits in seven innings. He was helped by inning-ending double plays in the fourth and fifth.

"He was able to make some big pitches in some tough situations," Indians manager Eric Wedge said.

Hafner hit a two-run homer in the first inning. Casey Blake hit a solo shot and Ronnie Belliard's major league-leading 41st double off the wall in left scored Ben Broussard from first for a 4-0 lead. Martinez added a three-run homer in the fifth.

"This is one of my favorite ballparks," Minnesota's Torii Hunter said. "To see it filled up like the old days is cool. And they are playing like the old Indians, too."

Yankees 6, Mariners 4: John Olerud hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth inning against his former team, helping New York win its fourth straight.

Shigetoshi Hasegawa (4-5) hit Gary Sheffield with a pitch leading off the eighth, then allowed Bernie Williams' double. George Sherrill intentionally walked Ruben Sierra with one out to face Olerud, who is hitting .333 with 11 RBIs in nine games with the Yankees.

Athletics 6, Royals 1: Mark Kotsay made a run-saving sliding catch on Ruben Mateo's bloop to center to preserve a tie in the top of the sixth, then homered off Brian Anderson (2-10) to lead off a five-run bottom half of the inning for the host A's.

Rich Harden (7-5) won his

fourth straight decision, allowing one run and five hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 2: Josh Towers (8-4) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings to beat his former team and win for the sixth time in seven starts. Justin Speier and Kerry Ligtenberg finished with hitless relief as host Toronto stopped a four-game losing streak and improved to 2-4 since John Gibbons replaced the fired Carlos Tosca as manager.

Red Sox 4, White Sox 3: David Ortiz's second homer of the game broke an eighth-inning tie and Curt Schilling (14-6) got his first home victory in seven weeks as Boston beat visiting Chicago.

Manny Ramirez hit his 30th homer and is tied with Ortiz for the AL lead.

Rangers 6, Devil Rays 5: Kevin Mench hit a go-ahead home run in the fifth inning and Gary Matthews Jr. added a solo shot to lead host Texas over host Anaheim.

Francisco Cordero got three outs for his 35th save and 15th in a row.

Angels 11, Tigers 8: Chone Figgins hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and drove in four runs for host Anaheim. Jose Guillen and Robb Quinlan also homered for the Angels.

Carlos Pena homered twice for the Tigers, who also got home runs from Rondell White and Ivan Rodriguez.

Cardinals can't keep up with the Jones

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Chipper Jones homered twice, Andruw Jones also homered and pinch-hitter Julio Franco had a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning to lead Atlanta over St. Louis 9-7 on Saturday, squaring at a game apiece the weekend series between NL division leaders.

Rafael Furcal had a home run among his four hits as the Braves opened a season-high eight-game homestand at home in the NL East. Furcal had four hits.

Albert Pujols homered twice for St. Louis, increasing his total to 35, one behind Cincinnati's Adam Dunn.

St. Louis, 12 1/2 games ahead of second-place Chicago in the NL Central, took a 7-4 lead with an unearned run in the seventh off Antonio Alfonseca (6-4).

NL Roundup

Ray King (4-2) was the loser, and John Smoltz got four outs for his 29th save.

Cubs 2, Dodgers 0: Kerry Wood (7-5) homered and allowed four hits and struck out seven in eight innings as host Chicago won for just the third time in eight games.

He hit his seventh homer in 305 career at-bats in the third inning off Kazuhisa Ishii (11-6), a drive into the left-field bleachers against a 15 mph wind. Chicago added a run in the fifth when Michael Barrett tripled leading off and scored on Corey Patterson's two-out single.

Mike Remlinger finished with

a one-hit ninth for his first save since Aug. 22, 2001, for Atlanta against St. Diego. Los Angeles, the NL West leader, had won eight of 11.

Giants 7, Phillies 6: Yovet Torrealba hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning off former Giant Felix Rodriguez (4-6).

Cody Ransom, Dustan Mohr and Marquis Grissom also homered for visiting San Francisco, which has won three in a row for the first time in a month.

Pirates 6, Rockies 1: Jose Castillo drove in a career-high three runs to back Oliver Perez (8-6). Castillo and Craig Wilson homered for the host Pirates, who had lost two straight after winning four in a row. Castillo, a rookie second baseman, was 3-for-4 with two singles.

Perez matched his career high

with seven walks, but allowed only one run and two hits in six innings, striking out six.

Colorado's Vinny Castilla homered for the second straight game.

Mariners 11, Brewers 1: Jeff Conine's third grand slam of the season highlighted visiting Florida's seven-run ninth inning.

Dontrelle Willis (9-8) threw seven innings and Paul Lo Duca and Miguel Cabrera each drove in two runs for the Mariners, who had lost six of seven on the road.

Mets 4, Diamondbacks 3: Cliff Floyd homered and drove in three runs and New York extended visiting Arizona's losing streak to nine games. Al Leiter (9-4) worked into the seventh inning to earn the victory, the Mets' third in a row and fourth in five games.

Expos 8, Astros 3: Nick

Johnson hit his first NL grand slam, Tony Armas Jr. pitched five hitless innings before leaving because of a high pitch count and host Montreal stretched its season-best winning streak to seven.

Armas, pitching for the first time in 18 days and limited to 77 pitches, became the second straight Expos starter to have a hitless outing. Jon Rauch went 4 1/3 innings Friday before leaving because of injury.

Reds 11, Padres 5: Wily Mo Pena homered twice and drove in four runs, helping host Cincinnati beat San Diego.

Pena and Darren Bragg hit home runs on back-to-back pitches from Brian Lawrence (11-10) to spark a six-run sixth. In the next inning, Pena followed Adam Dunn's major-league leading 36th homer with his 21st on consecutive pitches from Rod Beck.

Singh takes charge of PGA Championship

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

HAVEN, Wis. — Whistling Straits is suddenly the least of anyone's worries. Even more daunting is Vijay Singh in control of his game and in the lead at the PGA Championship.

When his 5-foot par putt disappeared into the cup on the final hole Saturday, Singh clenched his fist and raised his putter, the most valuable club in his bag. It took him 54 holes to get the lead all to himself, and it could not have come at a better time — or a better place.

"They have to play one shot better now," Singh said after a 3-under 69.

Flawless over the final 13 holes as a pack of contenders fell away, the 41-year-old Fijian emerged as the man to beat Saturday, taking a one-shot lead over Justin Leonard on a course that should play right into Singh's hand.

Leonard had a two-shot lead until he made bogeys on the 15th (518 yards) and the 18th (500 yards), two of the toughest par 4s on the longest course (7,514 yards) in the history of major championship golf.

Ernie Els was right there until he started hitting it into the hay, costing him precious shots over the closing holes and leaving him in a large group four shots behind

that includes Masters champion Phil Mickelson.

"It will be tense out there," Singh said. "I'm going to try to beat everybody in the field if I can. I'm in the best position right now to do that."

He was at 12-under 204, poised to turn a great year into his best ever. Singh has won the last seven tournaments when he had at least a share of the 54-hole lead, dating to the Houston Open two years ago. And this lead didn't happen by accident.

Ditching the belly putter for the conventional length two weeks ago when he won the Buick Open, Singh took only 25 putts in the third round and avoided bogey by lagging his long putts to tap-in range.

Leonard was at 205, giving him a third chance at winning the PGA. The former British Open champion drove into a bunker on the 15th and could not reach the green, and came up short with a 3-iron on the final hole, going into a bunker and making a nice two-putt for bogey.

"Vijay is an incredible player," Leonard said. "It's going to be a fun day. I get to go head-to-head with one of the best players in the world. At the same time, I have to play a Pete Dye golf course that's pretty difficult."

It proved plenty difficult down

the stretch for Els, Briny Baird and even Mickelson, although all of them are in contention.

Els, one of four players with at least a share of the lead at one time Saturday, narrowly missed four birdie putts on the back nine and it caught up with him when he started missing fairways.

The Big Easy had to make a great up-and-down on the 18th from some 60 yards for bogey, giving him a 72 and leaving him in a large group at 8-under 208 that included Mickelson (67), Darren Clarke (72), Stephen Ames (69) and Chris Riley (69), who is trying to sneak onto the Ryder Cup team.

Chris DiMarco had a 71 and was another shot behind.

Missing from the mix is Tiger Woods, which is no longer a big surprise.

Woods was poised to at least get into the picture until he lost his momentum with the click of a camera on No. 7, then failed to make birdie on the back nine.

Singh can put a stamp on an amazing career with a victory Sunday. It would be his 20th career victory on the PGA Tour and third major, credentials worthy of the Hall of Fame.

He can attribute it to his putter, which has held him back so many times in the majors.

Singh kept Leonard in sight with a 10-foot birdie on No. 10 and an 8-foot par save on the next



Vijay Singh celebrates a birdie on the 13th hole during the third round of the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis.

hole, then pulled even on the long holes where Leonard struggled.

"I knew those last four holes would be very tough this afternoon," said Leonard, noting that all of them played into a slight breeze.

The forecast is for slightly

stronger wind in the final round. Equally important as taking the lead, Singh had a four-shot advantage on everyone else.

"That putt on the last meant a lot," Singh said. "Being four ahead of the pack, they've got to play one shot better to catch me now."

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SPORTS

Puerto Rico sends USA tumbling



Team USA's Allen Iverson, left, goes out of bounds as he's fouled by Puerto Rico's Joe Ortiz in the first half of an Olympics preliminary round game in Helliniko, Greece. Puerto Rico routed the Americans 92-73, the first time a U.S. team has lost in the Olympic Games using NBA players.



Singh leads PGA Championship, but Els, Leonard close behind entering final round, Page 31

Embarrassing rout gives NBA stars first-ever loss in Olympic competition

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — In an upset as historic as it was inevitable, Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson and the rest of the U.S. basketball team lost 92-73 to Puerto Rico on Sunday, only the third Olympic defeat ever for the Americans.

It was also the most lopsided loss in the Games for the U.S. team, alarming not only for its significance but also for its decisiveness.

Puerto Rico, which had lost to the Americans five times in the past 13 months, took control in the first half, led by 22 at halftime and gamely held off a fourth-quarter comeback for one of the biggest sports achievements in the island territory's history.

The loss was a blow to the Americans' confidence, but it did little to hurt their gold medal chances. They need only to finish in the top four of their six-team group to reach the quarterfinals.

Still, the defeat will go a long way toward giving the competition the bold idea that it's someone else's turn to move to the top of a sport that's been dominated by one country for nearly three-quarters of a century.

As Carlos Arroyo left the court with just over a minute left, he defiantly pulled at the words "Puerto Rico" on his jersey. He led his team with 24 points.

Anyone in America who didn't see this coming hadn't been paying attention to the way international basket-

ball has been changing.

The U.S. nearly lost in the semifinals at Sydney on a last-second miss by Lithuania, then dropped three games on its home turf in the 2002 World Championships in Indianapolis — the first losses ever by a U.S. team of NBA professionals.

This year's team, weakened by the defections and rejections of 12 top players, opened its pre-Olympic tour of Europe with a 17-point loss to Italy and a last-second victory over Germany — a pair of games in which their vulnerability to a tight zone defense was clearly exposed.

Puerto Rico used that defensive strategy, too, and the Americans could do next to nothing against it.

After Lamar Odom made their first three-pointer, the Americans missed 16 straight. They tried to get the ball inside, but Puerto Rico collapsed several defenders into the paint and took the U.S. team's best player, Duncan, out of the offensive equation.

American teams had been 24-0 since the professional Olympic era began with the 1992 Dream Team, but now there is a blemish on their record to go with their two losses to the Soviet Union in the 1972 gold medal game and the 1988 semifinals.

They handled the loss to Puerto Rico with grace, congratulating their opponents and joining them in a huddle at center court before both teams exited to a standing ovation.

The U.S. Olympic team's record now stands at 109-3.

Medal count

Leaders after 25 medal events in the 2004 Olympics through Sunday, Aug. 15

Country	G	S	B	Total
China	5	2	1	8
Australia	4	1	3	8
United States	1	4	3	8
Russia	1	3	2	6
Japan	4	1	0	5
France	1	2	2	5
Italy	2	1	0	3
Turkey	2	0	1	3
Ukraine	2	0	1	3
Hungary	1	1	1	3
Hungary	0	1	2	3

2004 Athens Olympics: Day 2 highlights



Roddick, V. Williams advance through first round

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Relay bronze ends Phelps' quest for eight golds; Hansen settles for silver

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Spurs' Ginobili lifts Argentina at buzzer

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■ U.S. softball team shows Australia no mercy, Page 28

■ America rowers set world records during heats, Page 26

■ Olympic scoreboard, Page 27

Surprising Indians cut Twins' AL Central lead to one game Page 30